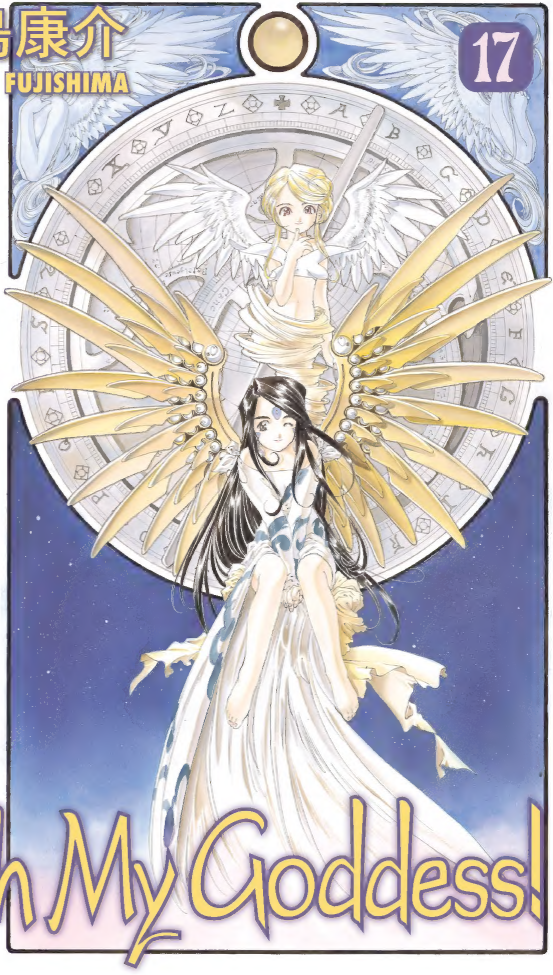
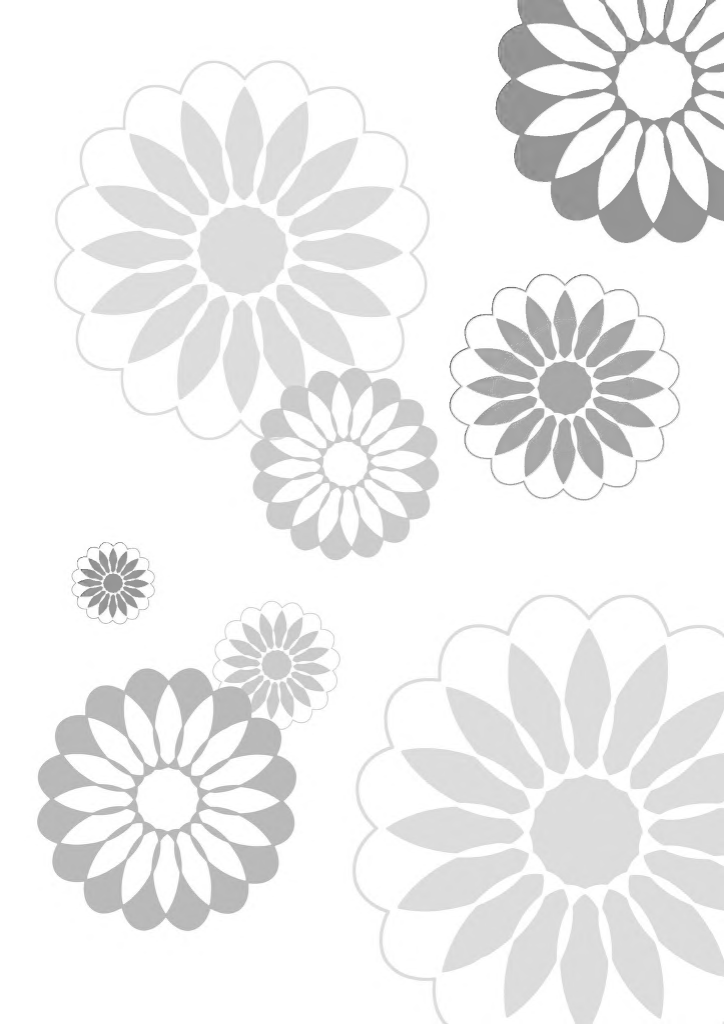
藤島康介
KOSUKE FUJISHIMA

17

ああっ女神さまっ

Oh My Goddess!





Oh My Goddess! 17

ああっ女神さまっ

STORY AND ART BY
Kosuke Fujishima

ORIGINAL TRANSLATION BY
Dana Lewis AND Toren Smith

LETTERING AND TOUCHUP BY
Susie Lee AND Betty Dong
WITH Tom2K

DARK HORSE MANGA™

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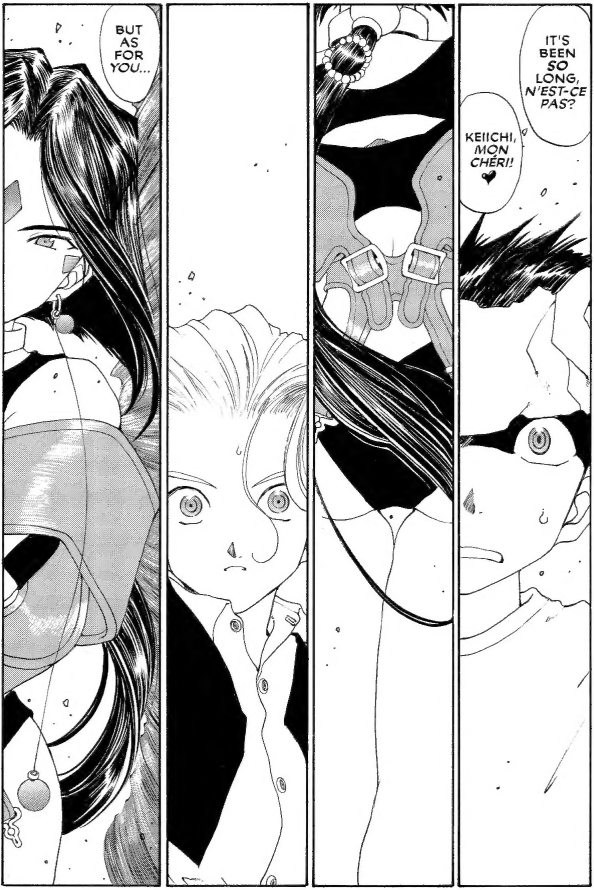
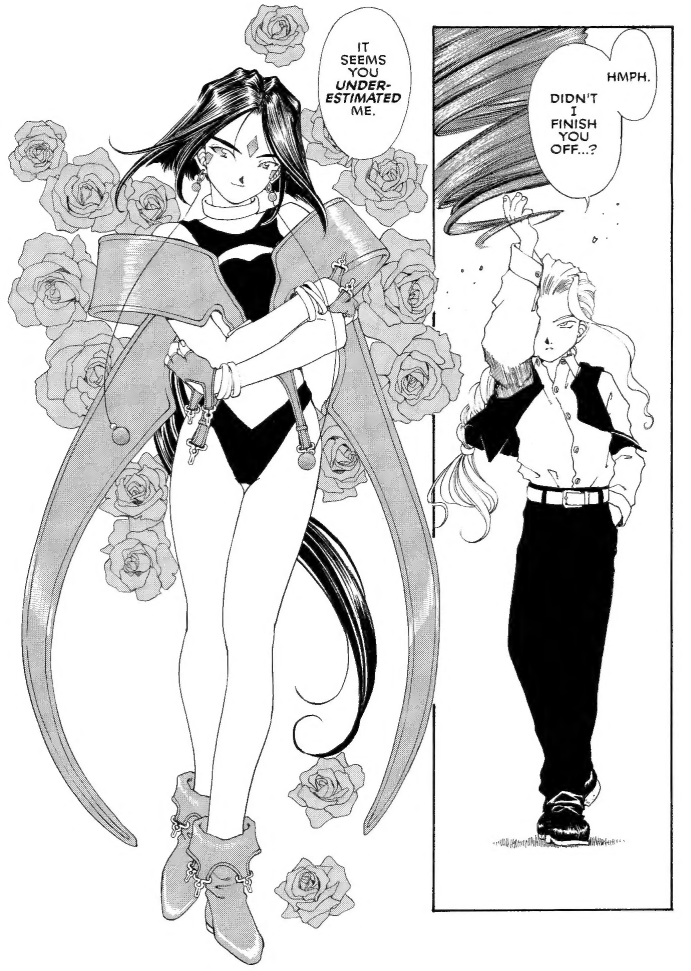
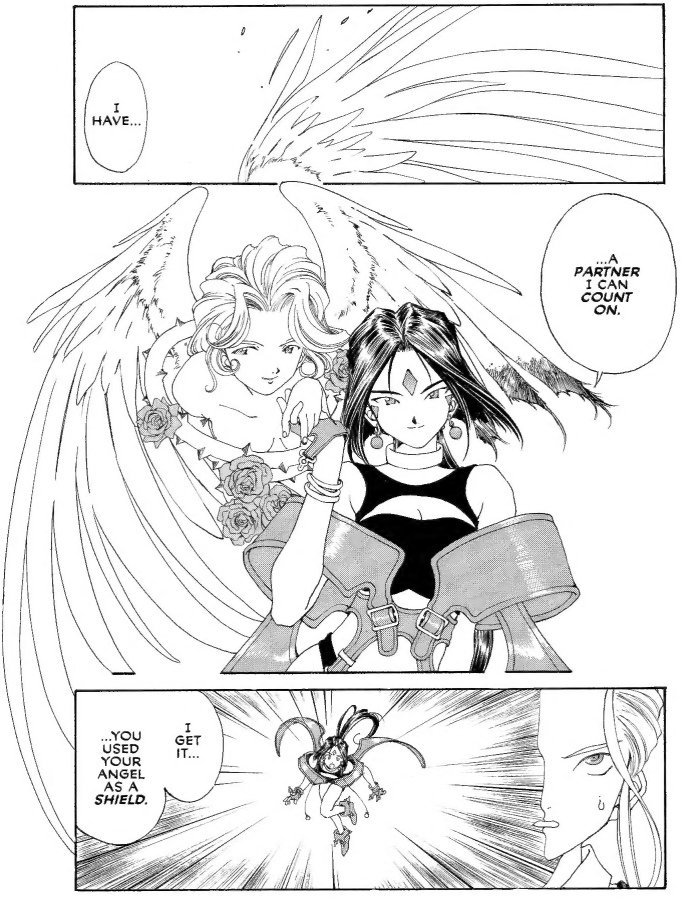

BUT AS FOR YOU...
IT'S BEEN SO LONG, N'EST-CE PAS?
KEIICHI, MON CHÉRI!!

CHAPTER 98

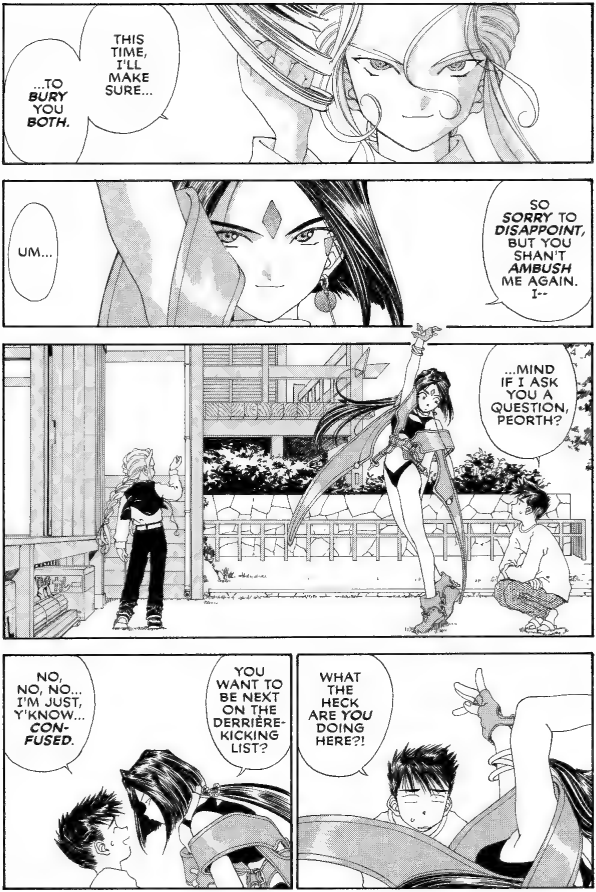
Light and Shadow


IT SEEMS YOU *UNDER-ESTIMATED* ME.
HMPH.
DIDN'T I FINISH YOU OFF...?


I HAVE...
...A *PARTNER* I CAN *COUNT ON.*
I GET IT...
...YOU USED YOUR ANGEL AS A *SHIELD.*

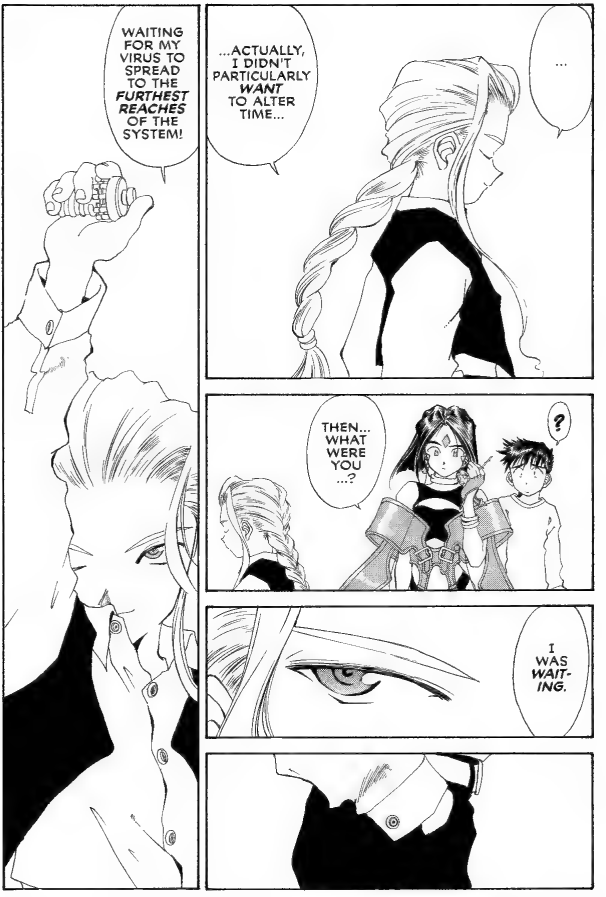
YES.
AND I DIDN'T ESCAPE *UNSCATHED*, I ADMIT.

WE'RE ONE BODY, ONE HEART.
...SHE PRO-TECTED ME.
--I DIDN'T USE HER...
BUT ONE CORREC-TION--
HOW CONVEN-IENT.
ONE BODY, ONE HEART, EH?
KNIFE


THIS TIME, I'LL MAKE SURE...
...TO *BURY* YOU *BOTH*.
UM...
SO *SORRY* TO *DISAPPOINT*, BUT YOU SHAN'T *AMBUSH* ME AGAIN. I--
...MIND IF I ASK YOU A QUESTION, PEORTH?
NO, NO, NO... I'M JUST, Y'KNOW... *CON-FUSED*.
YOU WANT TO BE NEXT ON THE DERRIÈRE-KICKING LIST?
WHAT THE HECK ARE *YOU* DOING HERE?!

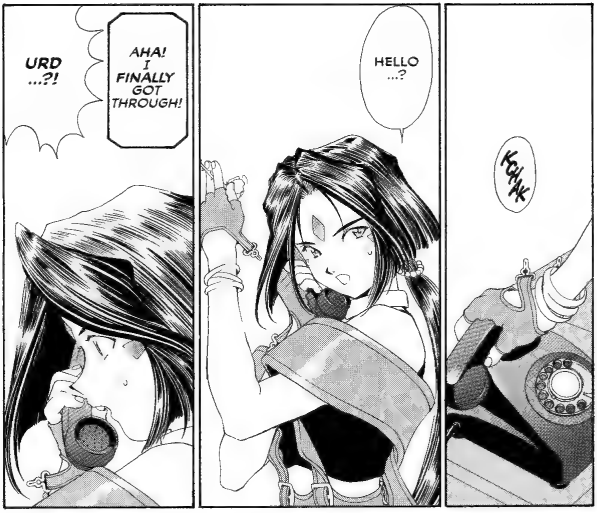
...IS HACKING YGGDRASIL'S TIME MANAGE-MENT SYSTEM!
I'M HERE BECAUSE I FOUND OUT THAT THIS LITTLE BRAT...
DAMN STRAIGHT!
AND I KNOCKED YOU FROM THE SKIES.
YES. HIS FAULT!
THEN, ALL THIS TIME WEIRDNESS AND STUFF...
FOR THE COUP DE GRÂCE!
SO YOU CHASED HIM HERE TO EARTH?

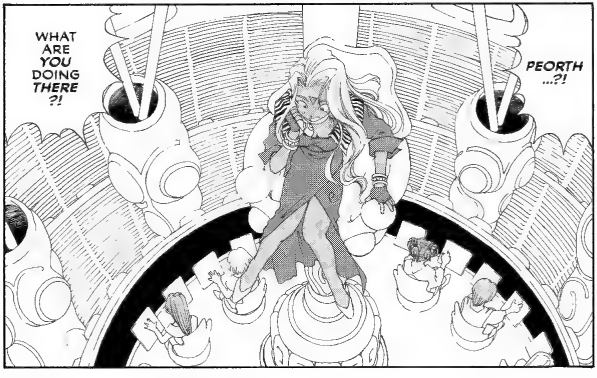
SORRY ABOUT THAT.
UNH
FWIPP
HMPH... AND YOU CALL *ME* CHILDISH.
UN! THOK
ENOUGH PLAYING AROUND, KID.
TELL ME!
WHY DID YOU ALTER *TIME?!*


WAITING FOR MY VIRUS TO SPREAD TO THE *FURTHEST REACHES* OF THE SYSTEM!
...ACTUALLY, I DIDN'T PARTICULARLY *WANT* TO ALTER TIME...
...
THEN... WHAT WERE YOU ...?
?
I WAS *WAIT-ING.*

WHAT...
...WHAT DID YOU JUST DO?!
RIINGG
cheep cheep
KLK

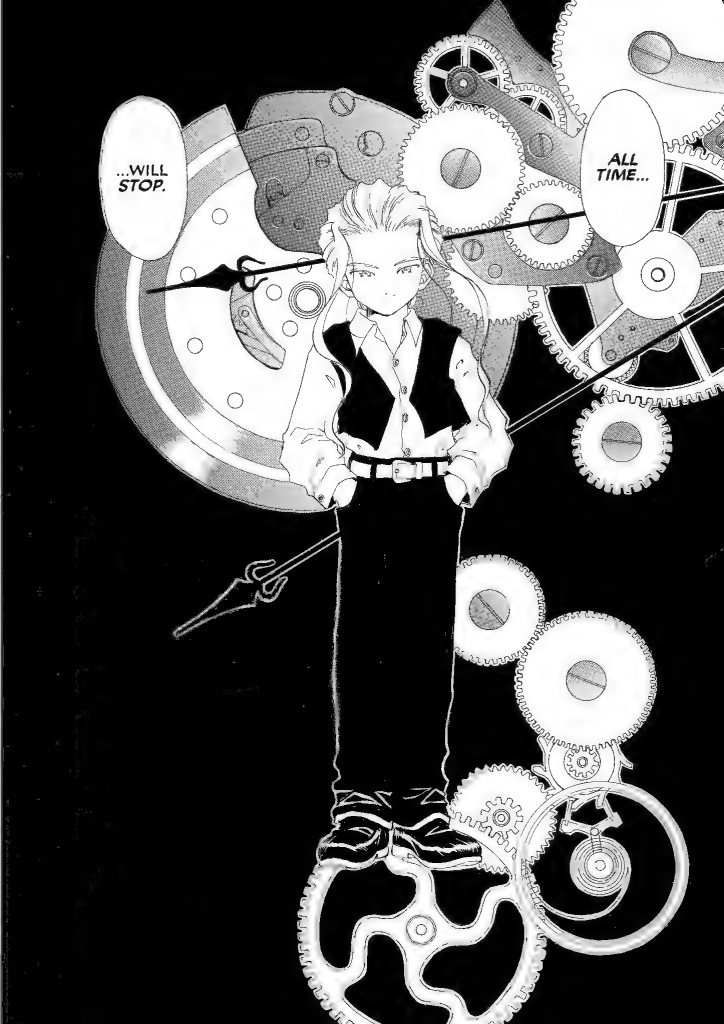
RRIINNGG
RRIINNGG
WANT TO GET IT?
RRIINNGG
DON'T WORRY. I WON'T DO A THING.


URD ...?!
AHA! I FINALLY GOT THROUGH!
HELLO ...?
KCHAK

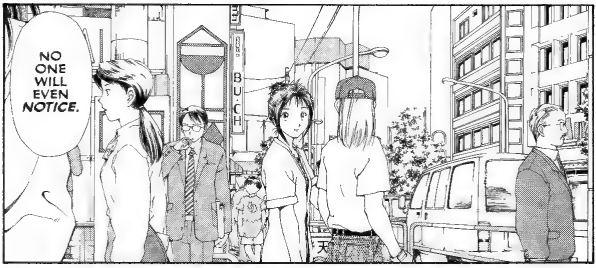

WHAT ARE YOU DOING THERE ?!
PEORTH ...?!

YGGDRASIL, N'EST-CE PAS IL?
WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN?! WE'RE GOING CRAZY UP HERE!!
CLOSED AND LOCKED!
YES!! THE SUBSYSTEM PROCESSES ARE SHUTTING DOWN--ALL BY THEMSELVES!
FEEDBACK OSCILLATIONS INCREASING!
TIME-FLUCTUATION BUFFER, DOWN!
URD! YOU'VE GOT TO GET BELLDANDY!

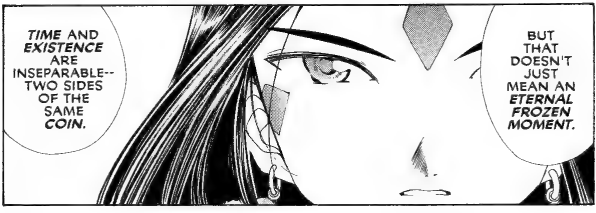
WE CAN'T STOP IT BY OUR-SELVES!
THE FUNCTIONAL SUBSYSTEMS ARE AT 64% AND DROPPING !!
삐삐
삐삐
WE NEED HELP BEFORE THE TIME SHEAR CAUSES--
FZZK
ㅅㅅㅅㅅㅅ
ㅅㅅㅅㅅㅅ
NO...
...IT CAN'T BE...
TIME CAN'T JUST...
IT WILL.

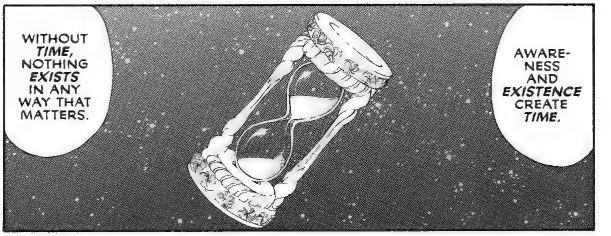

...WILL STOP.
ALL TIME...

DON'T YOU REALIZE WHAT YOU'RE DOING ?!
Y- YOU CAN'T! YOU CAN'T !!
YES, IT'S TRUE NO ONE WILL SUFFER.
...AND "LIVING"... ARE NOT THE SAME THING!!
"NOT DYING"...
IT'S NOT LIKE ANYONE DIES.
HEY... IT'S NO BIG DEAL.
FESTIMA WATCHES
PARCO 2


NO ONE WILL EVEN *NOTICE.*
BUCH

ONE *INSTANT...*
...UNENDING. *FOREVER.*
CABIN


TIME AND *EXISTENCE* ARE INSEPARABLE-- TWO SIDES OF THE SAME *COIN.*
BUT THAT DOESN'T JUST MEAN AN *ETERNAL FROZEN MOMENT.*

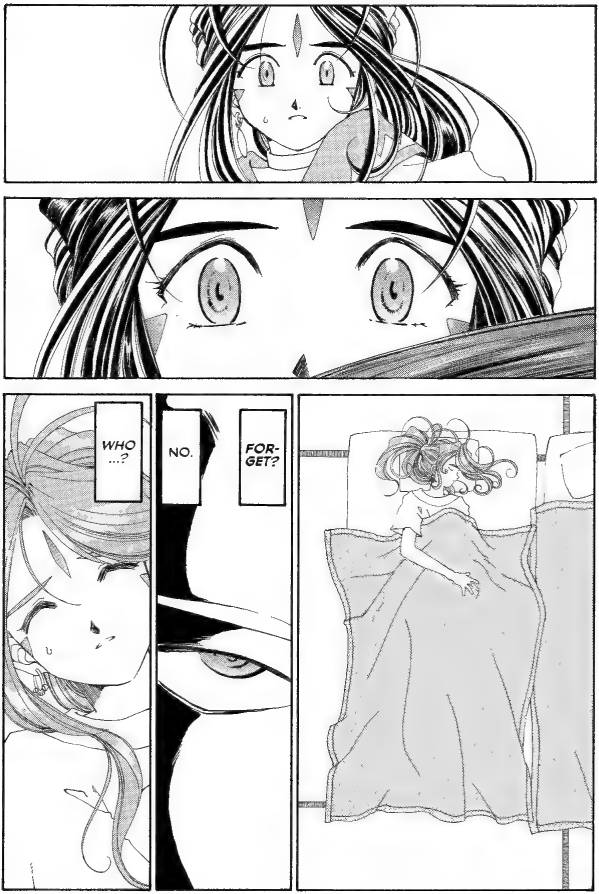

WITHOUT *TIME*, NOTHING *EXISTS* IN ANY WAY THAT MATTERS.
AWARE-NESS AND *EXISTENCE* CREATE *TIME*.

...LOSES ALL *MEANING*.
A WORLD THAT LOSES ALL *TIME*...

BUT THEN...
EFFECTIVELY... IT *ENDS.*
DON'T YOU *CARE,* DAMN IT?!
BELL-DANDY WILL DIE, ***TOO!***
COME *ON,* DIDN'T I JUST *TELL* YOU?
IT'S NOT REALLY LIKE SHE *DIES.*
THINK OF IT THIS WAY-- BELL-DANDY... AND *YOU,* TOO...
...BECOME *ETERNAL!*

I WON'T LET YOU DO IT!!

WHAT--
BUT... WHY?
ME ...?
GO ON, BELL-DANDY.
ゴッ
WHOSH

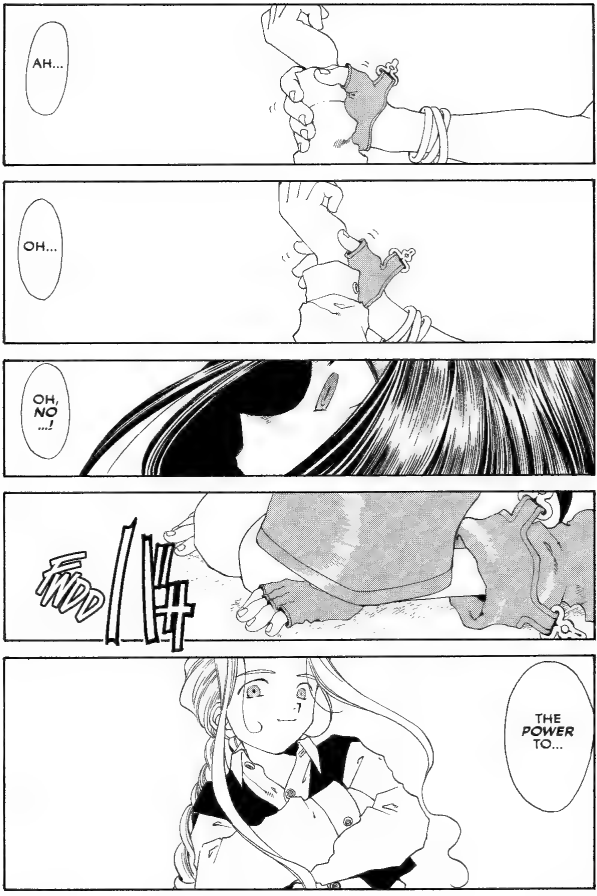

WHO ...?
NO.
FOR-GET?

WHO...
YOU ARE...
HELLO! MY NAME IS BELL-DANDY.

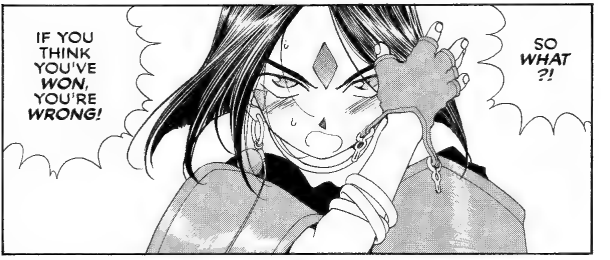
WHOA?!
CHANK
ニヤリ

SO YOU *REALLY* WANT THIS SWITCH, HMM?
WELL, WELL, WELL!
GRR!!
OKAY, BOY! LET'S GO! I *PROMISE* I'LL REALLY THROW IT THIS TIME!
KID-DING!
KCHAK
FETCH!
ROWF!!

SAY, I SWIPED AN INTERESTING PROGRAM FROM YOUR SYSTEM...
OH?
SORRY, KIDDO. TIME'S UP... FOR YOU.
ガシッ
...
ズーン
ZZZZ


AH...
OH...
OH, NO ...!
THE POWER TO...

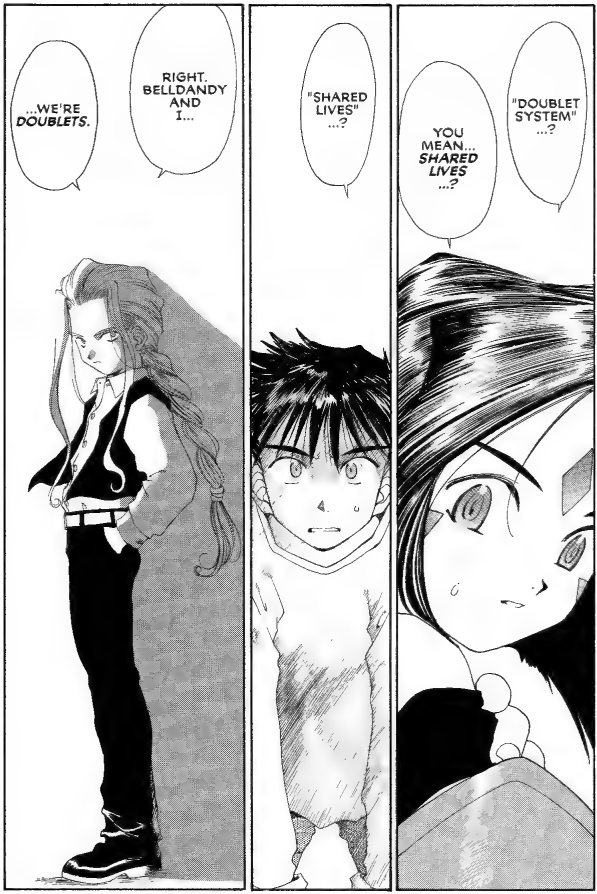
...REWIND *OTHER PEOPLE'S* TIME!


IF YOU THINK YOU'VE *WON*, YOU'RE *WRONG!*
SO *WHAT ?!*

COME FORTH, GORGEOUS ROSE!
...MOVE TOO MUCH AND YOUR CLOTHES'LL FALL OFF.
PLUS...
NOT ENOUGH POWER TO CALL YOUR ANGEL.
YOU'RE A KID AGAIN.

NOT LIKE THAT WHEN YOU'RE OLDER, ARE YOU?
EEEK!!
EEK! EEK!
SO! READY TO WATCH TIME END...? IT DOESN'T HAPPEN EVERY DAY!
BUT THEN AGAIN... YOU WON'T EVEN NOTICE.
ONE...
...QUES-TION.
WHY DO YOU WANT THE WORLD TO END?

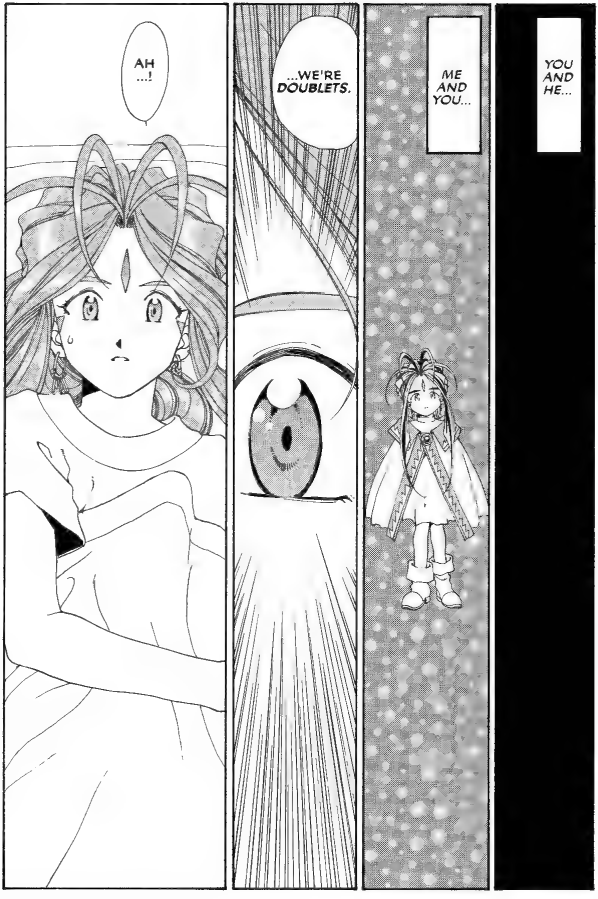
WHY GIVE IT ALL UP?
I MEAN, YOU'VE BEEN TRYING SO HARD TO MAKE BELLDANDY REMEMBER YOU!
...
HEARD OF IT, PEORTH?
THE DOUBLET SYSTEM.


"DOUBLET SYSTEM"...?
YOU MEAN... SHARED LIVES...?
"SHARED LIVES"...?
RIGHT. BELLDANDY AND I...
...WE'RE DOUBLETS.

CHAPTER 99

The Truth about Doublets

SURELY YOU MUST KNOW OF IT...
"DOUBLET SYSTEM" ...?
...YOU MEAN... *SHARED LIVES?*
YES.
BELL-DANDY AND I...

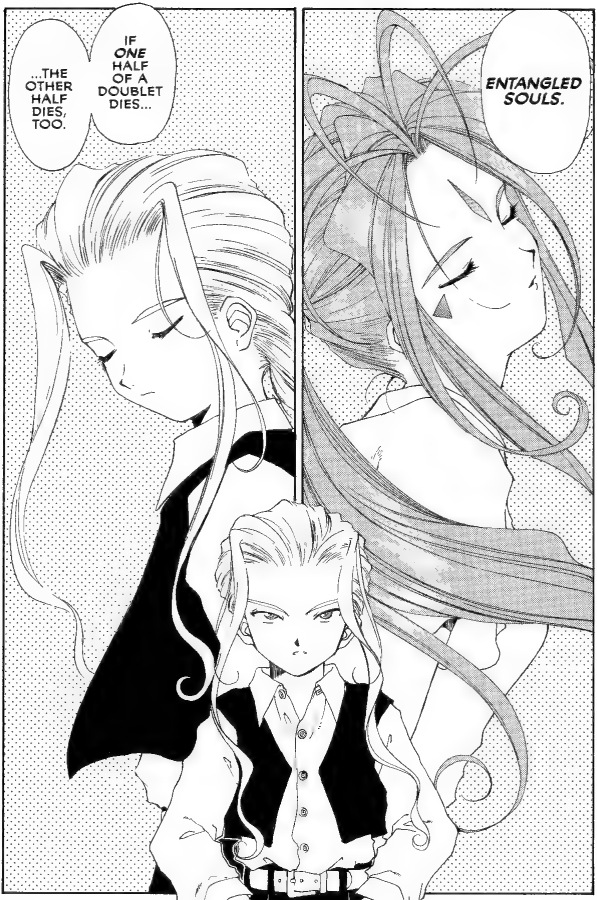

YOU AND HE...
ME AND YOU...
...WE'RE DOUBLETS.
AH ...!

THAT DREAM... AGAIN.
WHAT WAS IT...?
I'VE HEARD THAT BE-FORE...
...
DOUB-LETS.
SHARED LIVES...!

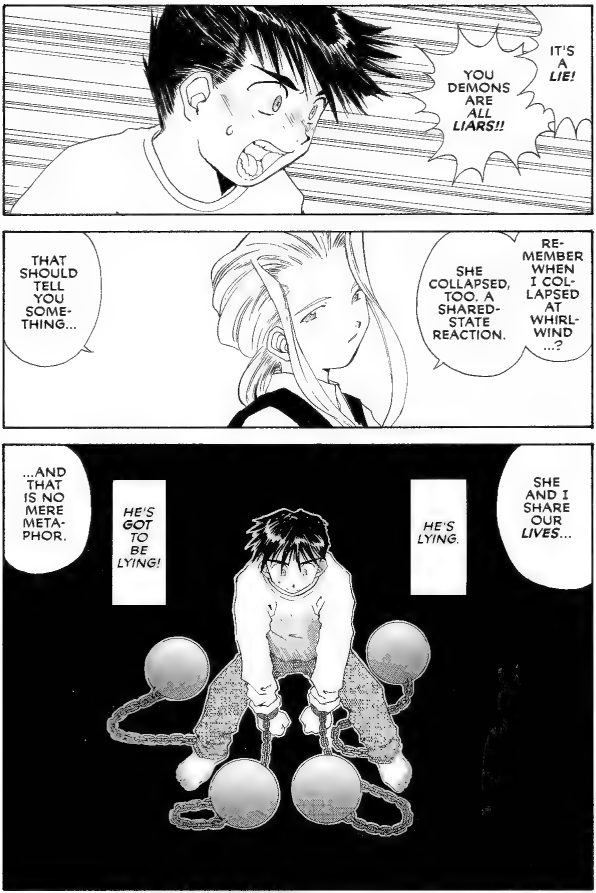
A HOSTAGE EXCHANGE ...!
"HOSTAGE EX-CHANGE" ...?!
EXACTLY.
YOU KNOW ABOUT THE BATTLE FOR MARKET SHARE BETWEEN GODS AND DEMONS, RIGHT?
YEAH...

BUT SOMETIMES, IN THE HEAT OF BATTLE... WE ARE TEMPTED.
THE LAW SAYS WE MAY *FIGHT* OVER IT... BUT *NOT* TO THE DEATH.

SO... *DOUBLETS* ARE...
SO TO MAKE SURE IT DOESN'T HAPPEN... THEY SET UP THIS SYSTEM.


ENTANGLED SOULS.
IF ONE HALF OF A DOUBLET DIES...
...THE OTHER HALF DIES, TOO.

DIES ...?
BELL-DANDY CAN
...NO...
...DIE?

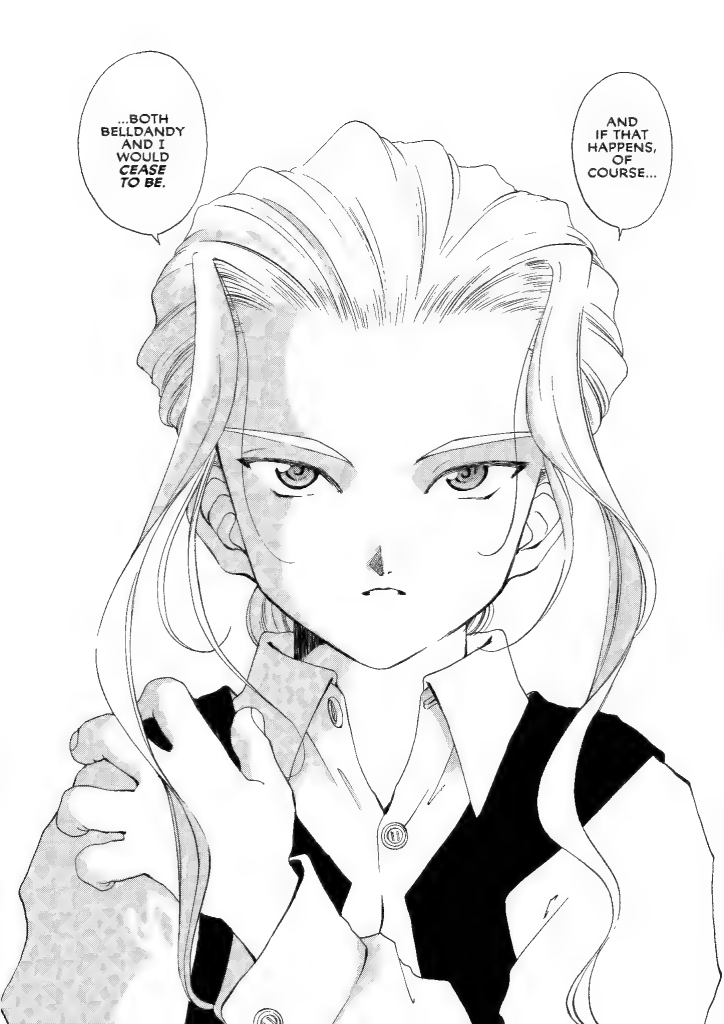

YOU DEMONS ARE *ALL LIARS!!*
IT'S A *LIE!*
RE-MEMBER WHEN I COL-LAPSED AT WHIRL-WIND ...?
SHE COLLAPSED, TOO. A SHARED-STATE REACTION.
THAT SHOULD TELL YOU SOME-THING...
SHE AND I SHARE OUR *LIVES*...
HE'S LYING.
HE'S GOT TO BE LYING!
...AND THAT IS NO MERE META-PHOR.

NO...
...HE IS LYING!
IT'S TRUE THAT THE DOUBLET SYSTEM EXISTS. BUT THE WHOLE REASON IT WORKS...
...IS BECAUSE WE DON'T KNOW WHO THE OTHER SOUL IS!!

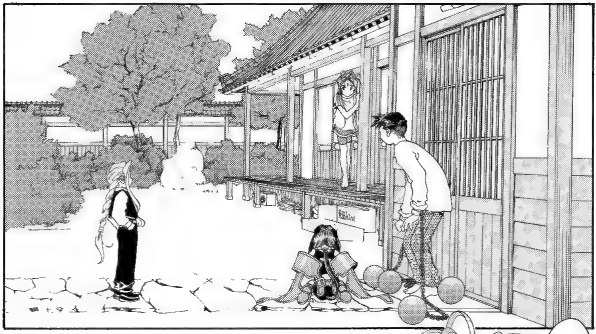
WHEN WE'RE CHILDREN... AFTER THEY PAIR US WITH THE OTHER SOUL...
...THEY ERASE *BOTH* OUR MEMORIES OF THE EVENT... *GOD AND DEMON ALIKE!*
SO NO GOD KILLS A DEMON, NOR DEMON A GOD...
...BECAUSE *ANY* OF THEM COULD BE *YOUR* DOUBLE!
TRUE.
THAT'S HOW IT'S *SUPPOSED* TO WORK.

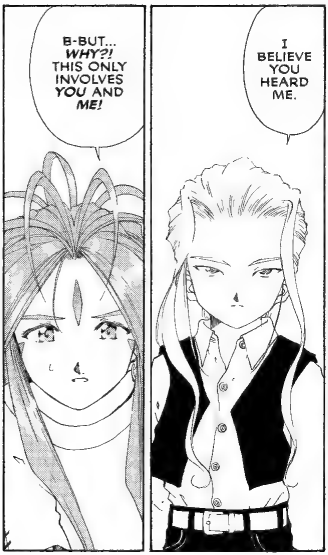
BUT, YOU SEE...
...I DIDN'T WANT TO FORGET.
I FOUND A *LOOPHOLE*. WERE I TO LAY A CURSE ON MYSELF TO *STAY* A CHILD FOR-EVER...
...THEN I WOULD REMEMBER THE WHOLE CEREMONY.

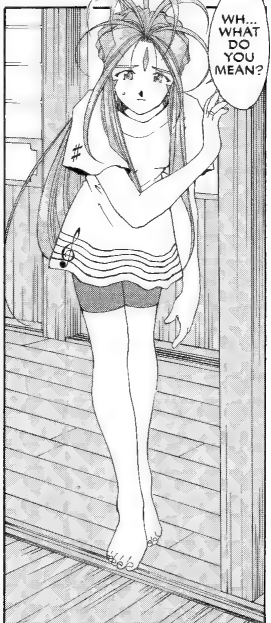
YOU CAN'T VIOLATE THE LAWS OF PHYSICS FOREVER. WORSE STILL...
THE CURSE GRADUALLY BENDS *TIME* TO KEEP ME YOUNG.
EH ...?
PERHAPS YOU'RE RIGHT, IN A SENSE.
THAT'S...
...IMPOS-SIBLE...
ANY MOMENT NOW, I COULD *COLLAPSE* BACK INTO THE FORMLESS VOID OF EXISTENCE.
...THE ENERGY POTENTIAL OF MY POWER IS *EXCEEDING* THE CARRYING ABILITY OF THIS CHILDISH FORM.

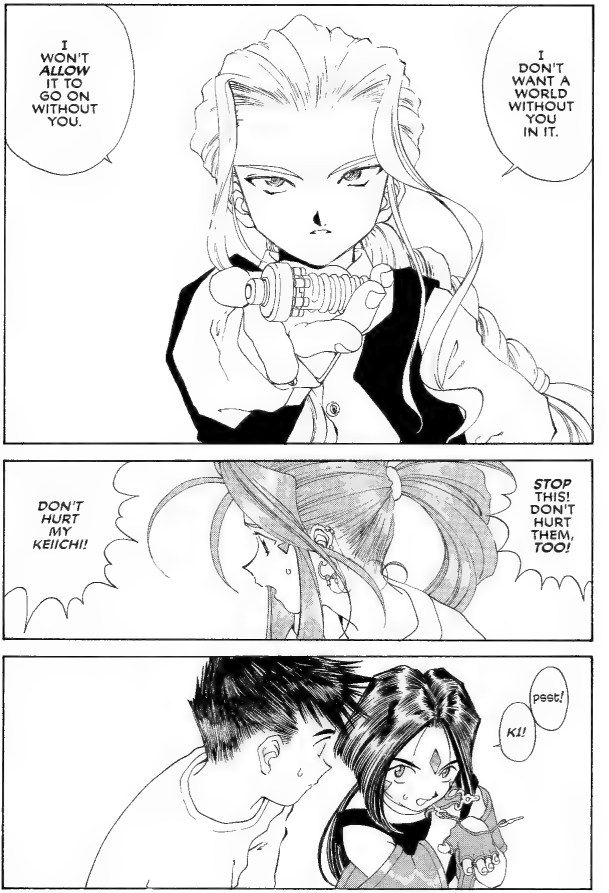

...BOTH BELLDANDY AND I WOULD *CEASE TO BE.*
AND IF THAT HAPPENS, OF COURSE...

THE *WORLD* END...?
THAT'S WHY YOU WANT THE WORLD TO END...?

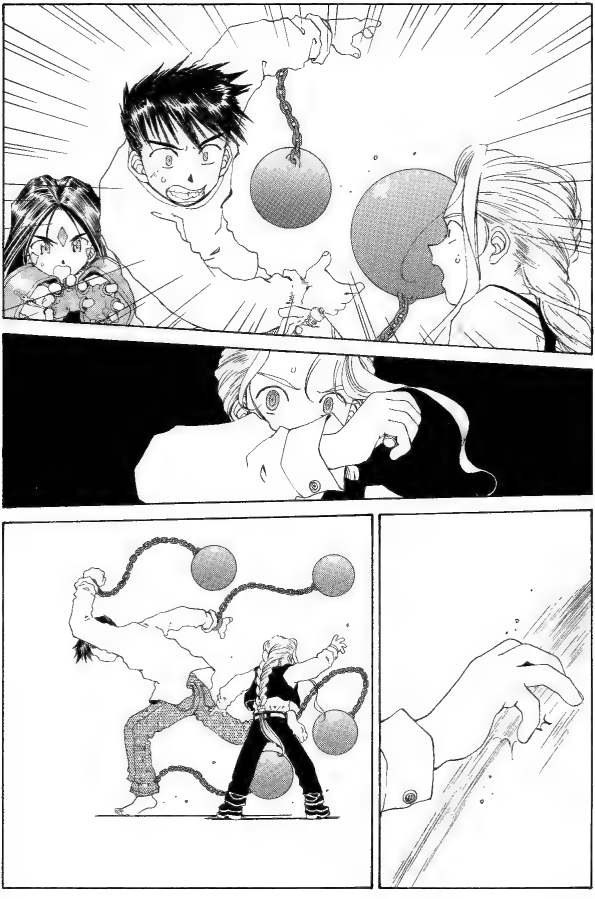


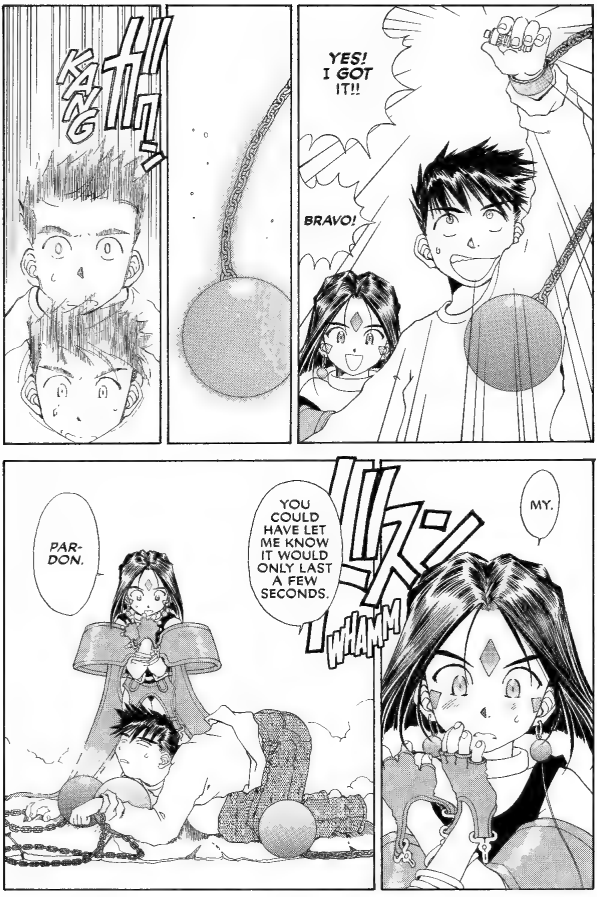

B-BUT... *WHY?!* THIS ONLY INVOLVES *YOU* AND *ME!*
I BELIEVE YOU HEARD ME.


WH... WHAT DO YOU MEAN?


I WON'T *ALLOW* IT TO GO ON WITHOUT YOU.
I DON'T WANT A WORLD WITHOUT YOU IN IT.
DON'T HURT MY KEIICHI!
STOP THIS! DON'T HURT THEM, *TOO!*
peet!
KI!

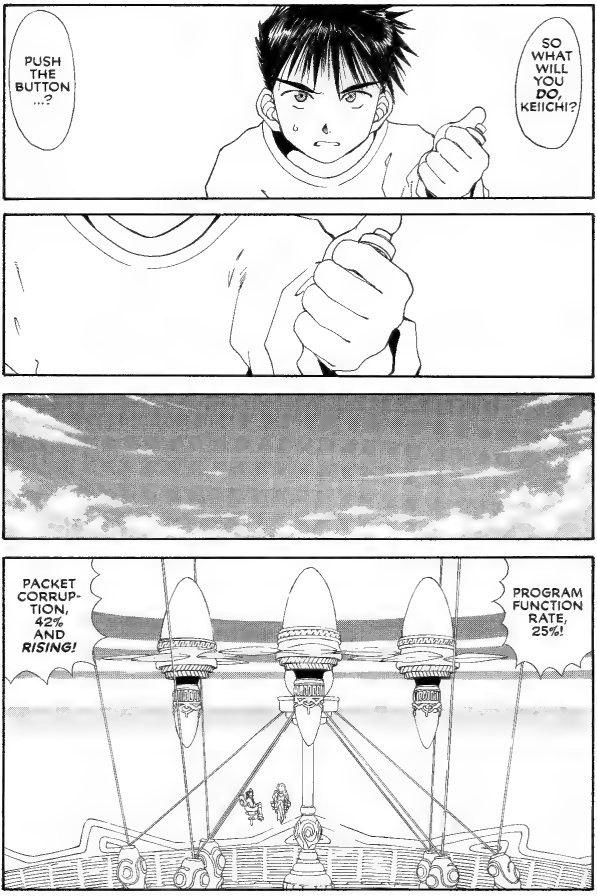
I CAN'T CALL MY ANGEL IN THIS FORM...
...I CAN'T DO ANY-THING BIG.
BUT THERE'S ONE THING I CAN DO...
...I CAN BLOCK THE GRAVITONS FROM THESE!
I DIDN'T WANT YOU TO SEE ME LIKE THIS--
!!



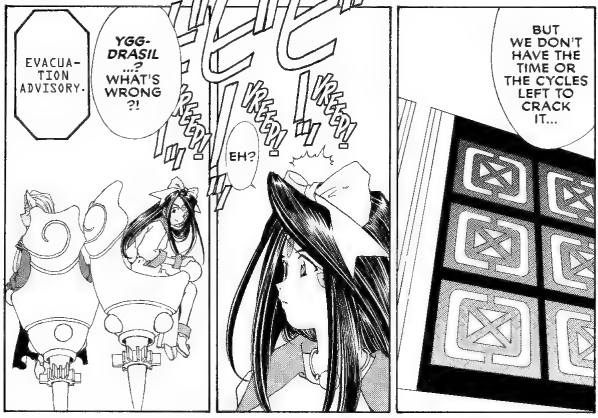

KAG
YES! I GOT IT!!
BRAVO!
PAR-DON.
YOU COULD HAVE LET ME KNOW IT WOULD ONLY LAST A FEW SECONDS.
WHAM!
MY.

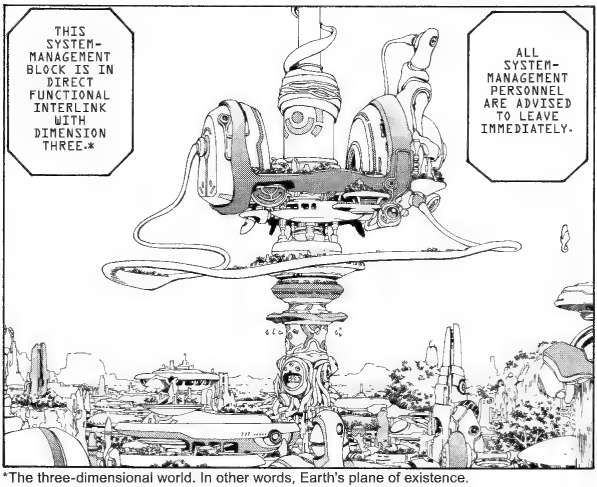
WSHH!
AND...
...WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO...
...WITH *THAT?*
AH. I *SEE.*
I'LL HIT THE *SWITCH*, AND TURN TIME BACK TO *NORMAL!*
JUST WHAT YOU *THINK*, PAL!

YES, THEN THE *WORLD* SHALL BE *SAVED!*
THANKS TO YOU, KEIICHI, THE *GREAT HERO!*
AND THEN, OF COURSE, I'LL STILL *DIE*... AND WITH ME... *BELL-DANDY.*
!


PUSH THE BUTTON ...?
SO WHAT WILL YOU *DO*, KEIICHI?
PACKET CORRUPTION, 42% AND *RISING!*
PROGRAM FUNCTION RATE, 25%!

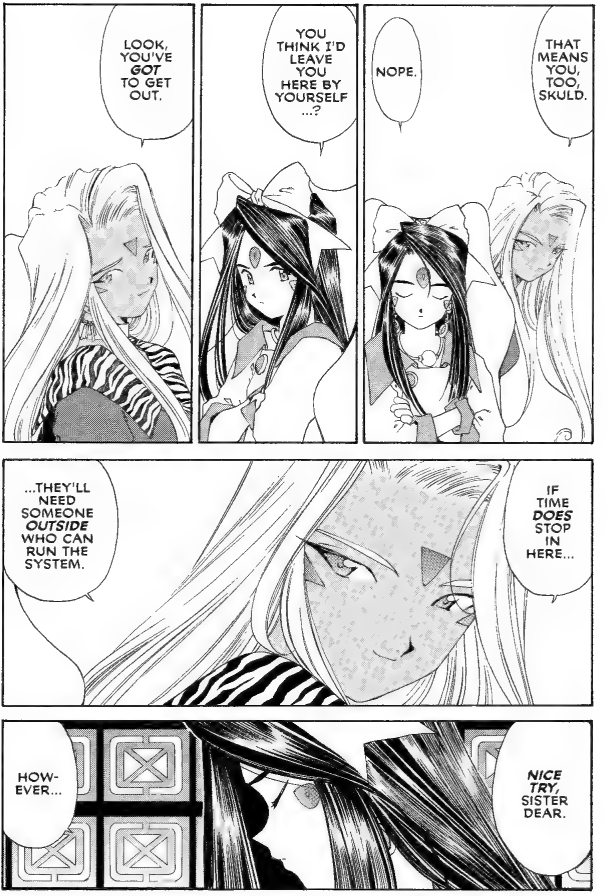
THE VIRUS IS EVOLVING TOO FAST!
DAMN IT! I JUST CAN'T BLOCK IT!
BUT...
SO WE CAN'T DO PATTERN MATCHING... OR USE HEURISTICS...
COULD BE.
A PASS-WORD ?!
...LIKE IT'S WAITING TO RECEIVE SOME-THING.
AND SEVERAL OF ITS PORTS ARE STILL OPEN...
ONE SUB-SYSTEM HASN'T CHANGED STATE!
...DID YOU NOTICE?




THIS SYSTEM-MANAGEMENT BLOCK IS IN DIRECT FUNCTIONAL INTERLINK WITH DIMENSION THREE.*
ALL SYSTEM-MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL ARE ADVISED TO LEAVE IMMEDIATELY.

*The three-dimensional world. In other words, Earth's plane of existence.

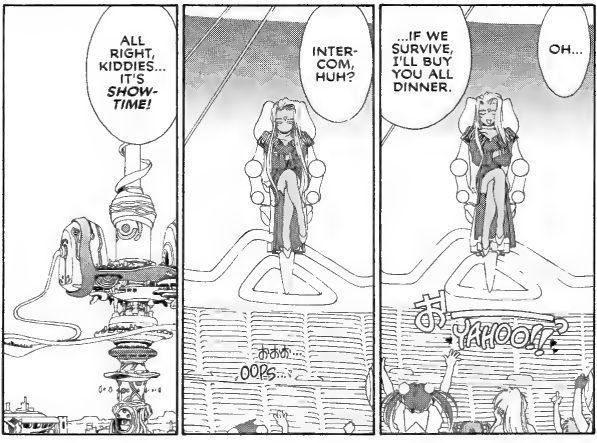
THERE IS NOW A HIGH PROBABILITY TIME WILL STOP IN THIS AREA.
DO YOU ACCEPT THE RECOMMENDATION TO EVACUATE?
!
ACCEPTED!
ALL PERSONNEL, EVACUATE.

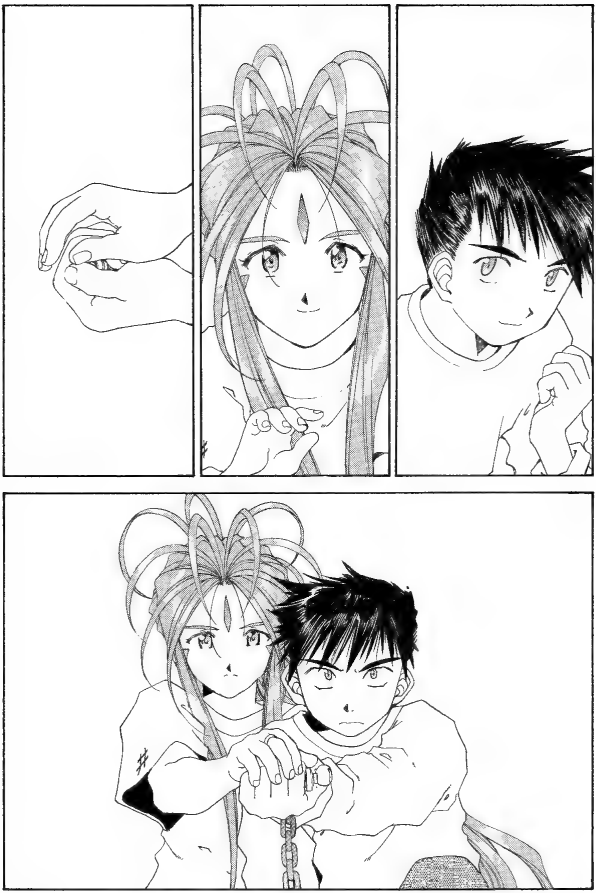

LOOK, YOU'VE *GOT* TO GET OUT.
YOU THINK I'D LEAVE YOU HERE BY YOURSELF ...?
NOPE.
THAT MEANS YOU, TOO, SKULD.
...THEY'LL NEED SOMEONE *OUTSIDE* WHO CAN RUN THE SYSTEM.
IF TIME *DOES* STOP IN HERE...
HOW-EVER...
NICE TRY, SISTER DEAR.

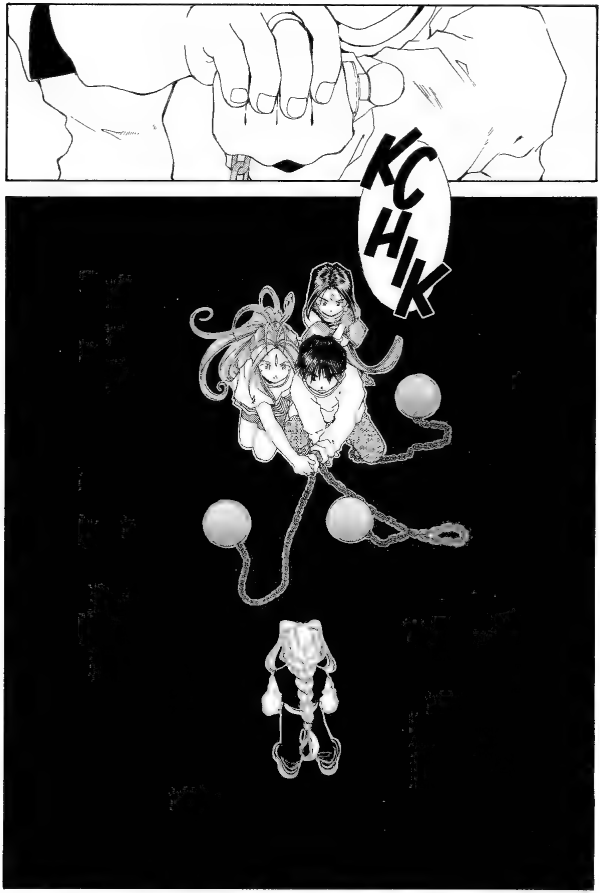
AND WHAT'S *MORE*...
I AM FULLY AWARE THIS SYSTEM CAN *ONLY* BE RUN FROM THE *INSIDE*.
...YOU CAN'T *REENTER* A SPACE WHERE TIME HAS STOPPED.
HA! SAME TO *YOU*, URD!
ALL RIGHT. JUST DON'T GET IN MY WAY!
...WELL, YOU GOT ME, KID.
HM...
I'M NOT LETTING *YOU* BE THE BIG HERO! NO *WAY!*

THE REST OF YOU... CLEAR OUT!
VIRUS INTRUSION RATE DOWN 2%!
UPDATING FIREWALL SECURITY PERMISSIONS... NOW!
YEAH... I CAN'T HEAR A THING SHE'S SAYING.
I THINK THE INTERCOM'S BROKEN, TOO!
...
YGGDRASIL...
...DECISION REVERSED!

ATTENTION, ALL PERSONNEL! EVACUATION ADVISORY *REJECTED!*


ALL RIGHT, KIDDIES... IT'S *SHOW-TIME!*
INTER-COM, HUH?
...IF WE SURVIVE, I'LL BUY YOU ALL DINNER.
OH...
OOPS...
YAHOO!

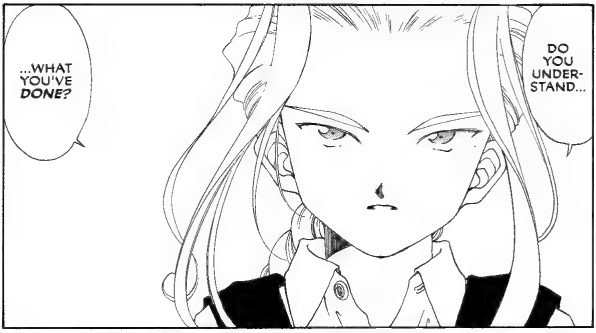


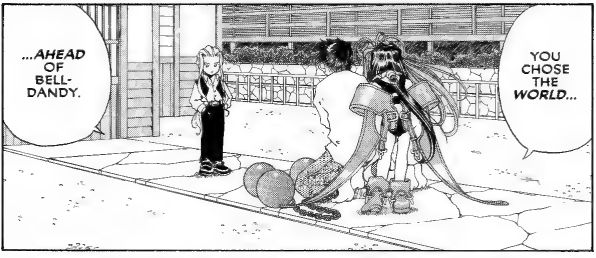

KCHIK

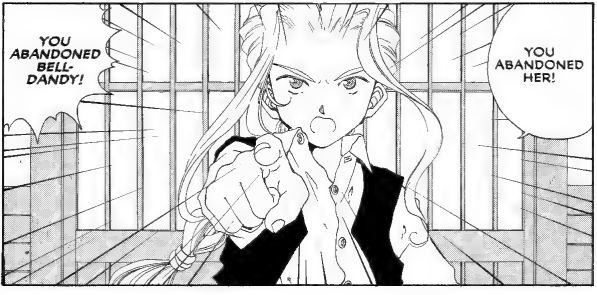
CHAPTER 100

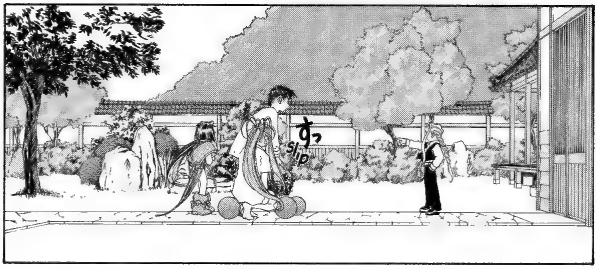
Time without End, Hope without End

klik
WOW.
YOU REALLY DID IT.

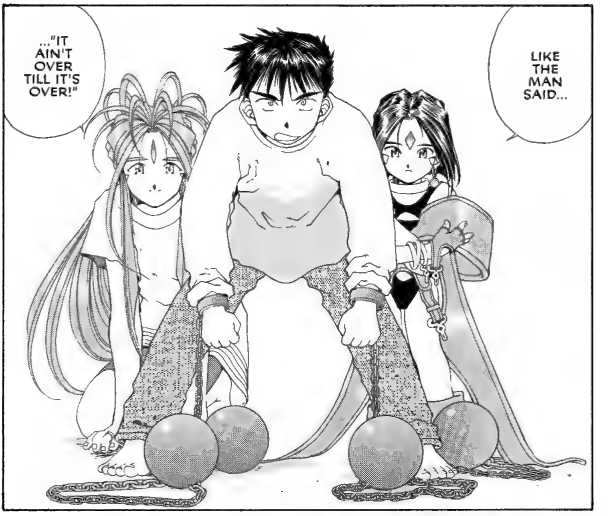

...WHAT YOU'VE *DONE?*
DO YOU UNDER-STAND...

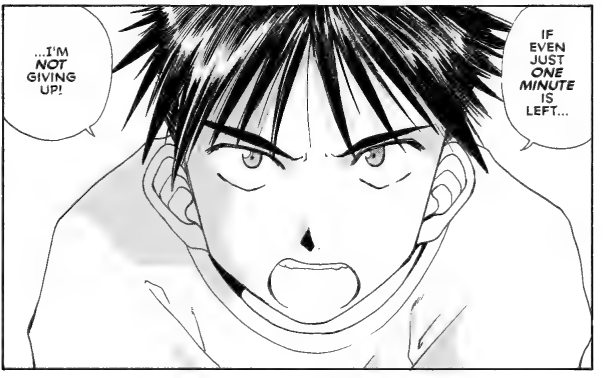

...*AHEAD* OF BELL-DANDY.
YOU CHOSE THE *WORLD*...

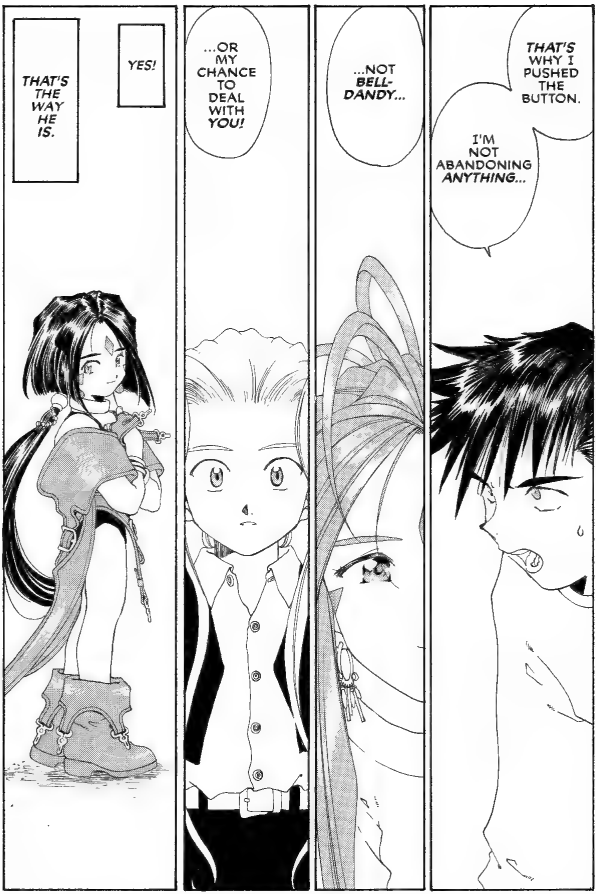

YOU ABANDONED BELL-DANDY!
YOU ABANDONED HER!


sip

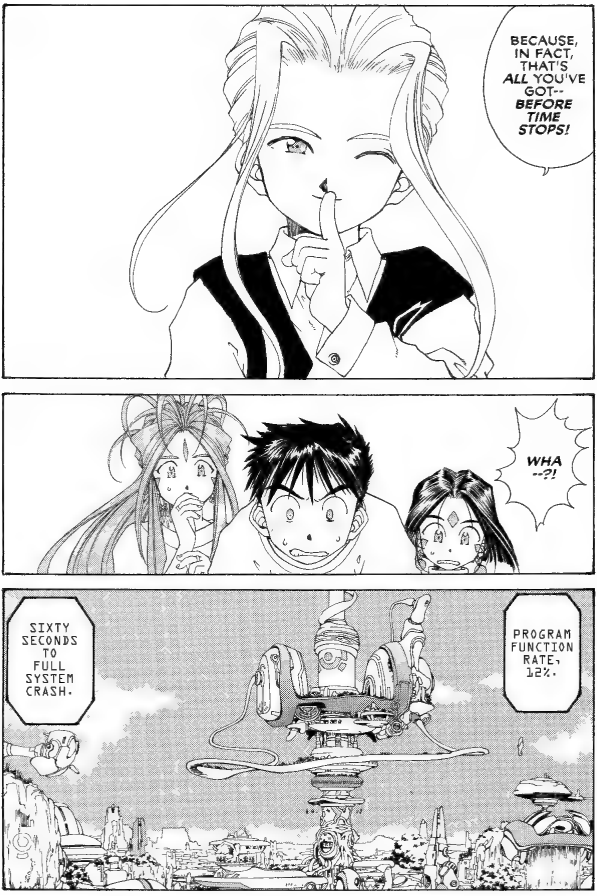
LET ME ASK YOU SOME-THING.
IF I'D DONE NOTHING, WHAT GUARAN-TEE WAS THERE...
...THAT BELL-DANDY WOULD BE SAVED?
...
YOU SAY YOU'RE GOING TO DIE... BUT YOU LOOK THE SAME TO ME.

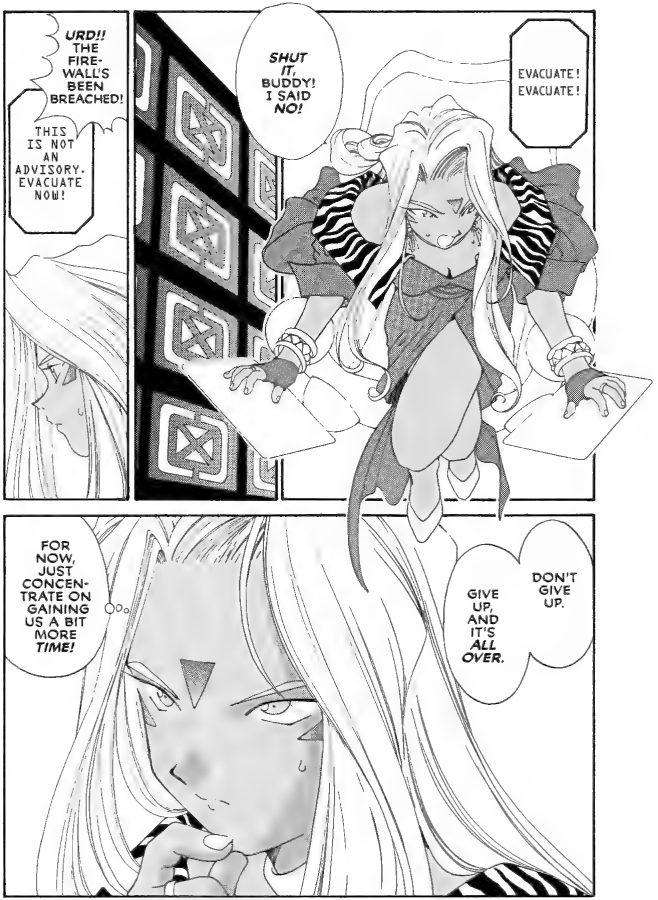

...IT AIN'T OVER TILL IT'S OVER!
LIKE THE MAN SAID...

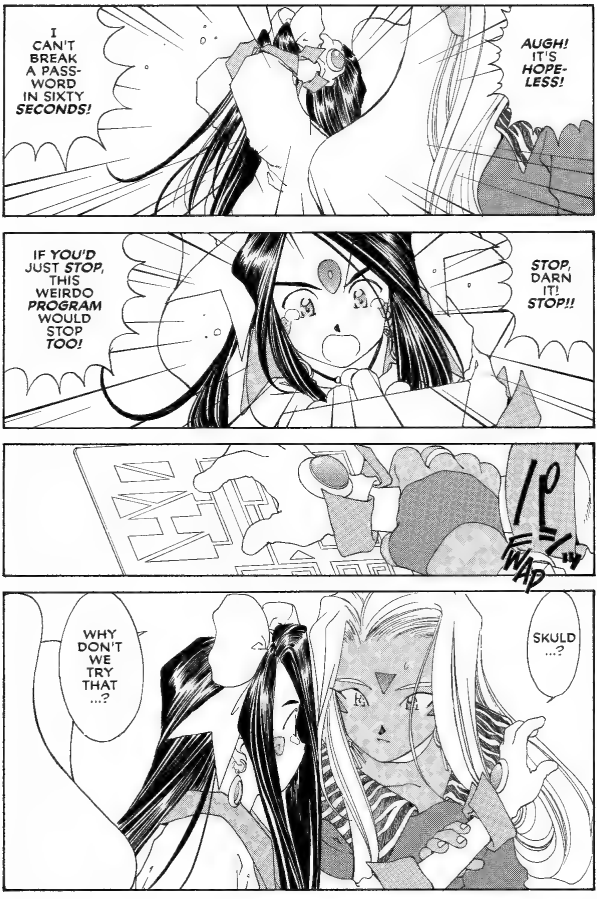

...I'M NOT GIVING UP!
IF EVEN JUST ONE MINUTE IS LEFT...

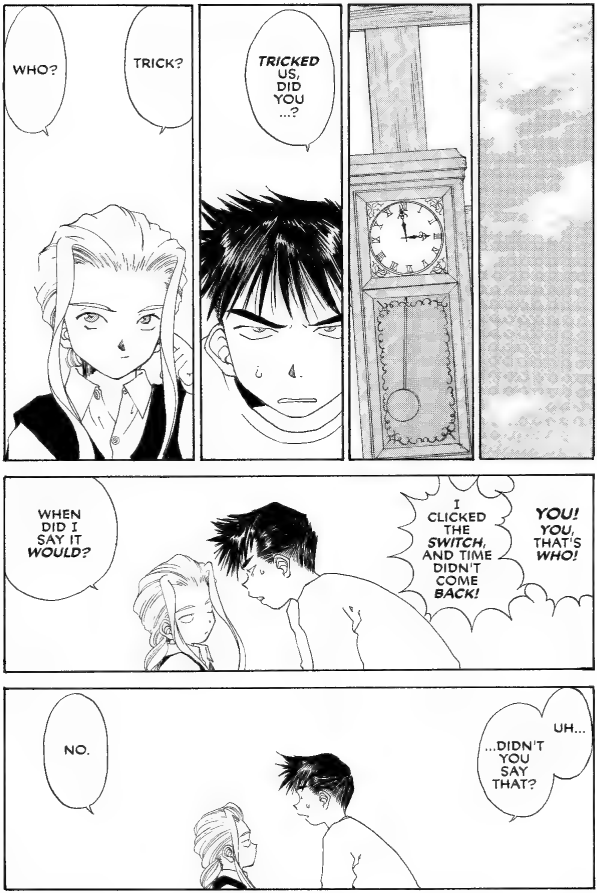

THAT'S THE WAY HE IS.
YES!
...OR MY CHANCE TO DEAL WITH YOU!
...NOT BELL-DANDY...
I'M NOT ABANDONING ANYTHING...
THAT'S WHY I PUSHED THE BUTTON.

AND THAT'S WHY YOU...
...CAN FOREVER TRUST IN HIM, BELL-DANDY.
...
HOW VERY INTEREST-ING!
SO! GO AHEAD AND SHOW ME...
...WHAT YOU CAN DO IN ONE SINGLE MINUTE.
HUH ...?


BECAUSE, IN FACT, THAT'S ALL YOU'VE GOT-- BEFORE TIME STOPS!
WHA --?!
SIXTY SECONDS TO FULL SYSTEM CRASH.
PROGRAM FUNCTION RATE, 12%.

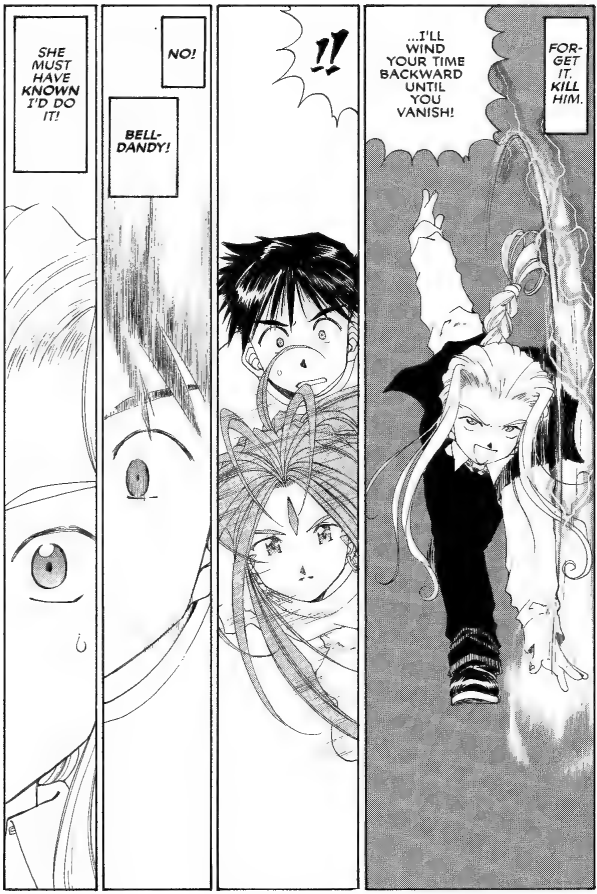

EVACUATE! EVACUATE!
SHUT IT, BUDDY! I SAID NO!
URD!! THE FIRE-WALL'S BEEN BREACHED!
THIS IS NOT AN ADVISORY. EVACUATE NOW!
DON'T GIVE UP.
GIVE UP, AND IT'S ALL OVER.
FOR NOW, JUST CONCENTRATE ON GAINING US A BIT MORE TIME!

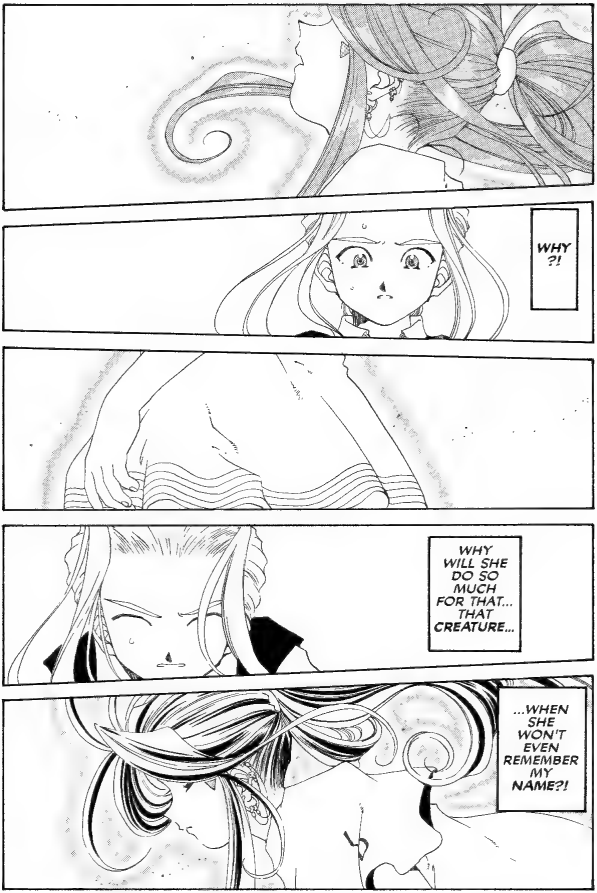

I CAN'T BREAK A PASS-WORD IN SIXTY SECONDS!
AUGH! IT'S HOPE-LESS!
IF YOU'D JUST STOP, THIS WEIRDO PROGRAM WOULD STOP TOO!
STOP, DARN IT! STOP!!
パシン
SWAP
WHY DON'T WE TRY THAT ...?
SKULD ...?


WHO?
TRICK?
TRICKED US, DID YOU ...?
WHEN DID I SAY IT WOULD?
I CLICKED THE SWITCH, AND TIME DIDN'T COME BACK!
YOU! YOU, THAT'S WHO!
NO.
UH... ...DIDN'T YOU SAY THAT?

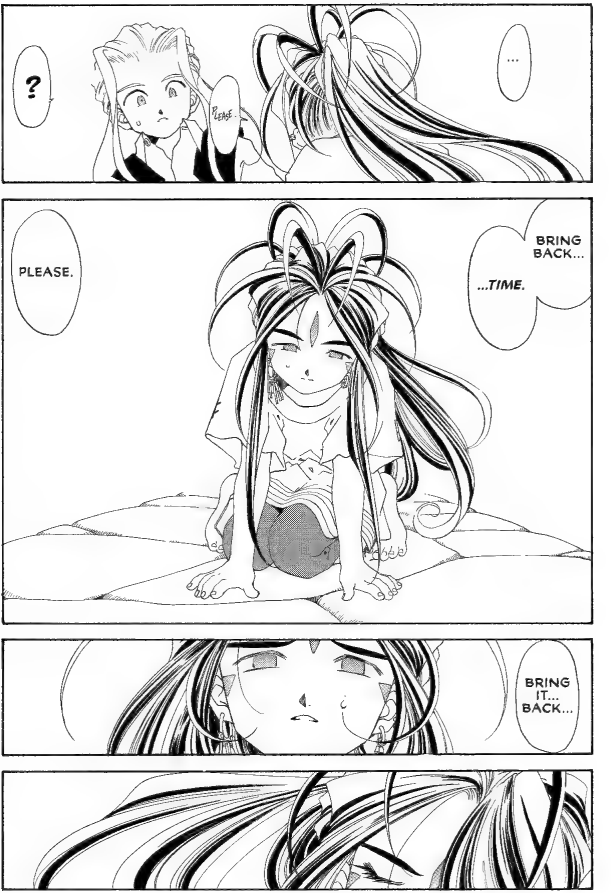
THIRTY SECONDS AND *COUNT-ING...*
SO? *NOW* WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?
...*WELL?* WEREN'T YOU GOING TO *SHOW* ME? HOW TO FIGHT TO THE LAST *MINUTE?*
ACTUALLY, I DO HAVE *ONE* TASK LEFT.
OH, YES, THAT'S RIGHT.
JUST STANDING THERE... *WATCHING...*
...AND WHAT ABOUT *YOU?*

I FORGOT TO HAVE YOU DIE.
SORRY FOR THE WAIT.
YOU ARE SOME-THING ELSE, BOY.
...
LOOK AT THOSE EYES! HE STILL HASN'T GIVEN UP. NOT EVEN NOW.
EVEN WHEN HE DOESN'T HAVE A HOPE. IT'S SO ANNOYING...

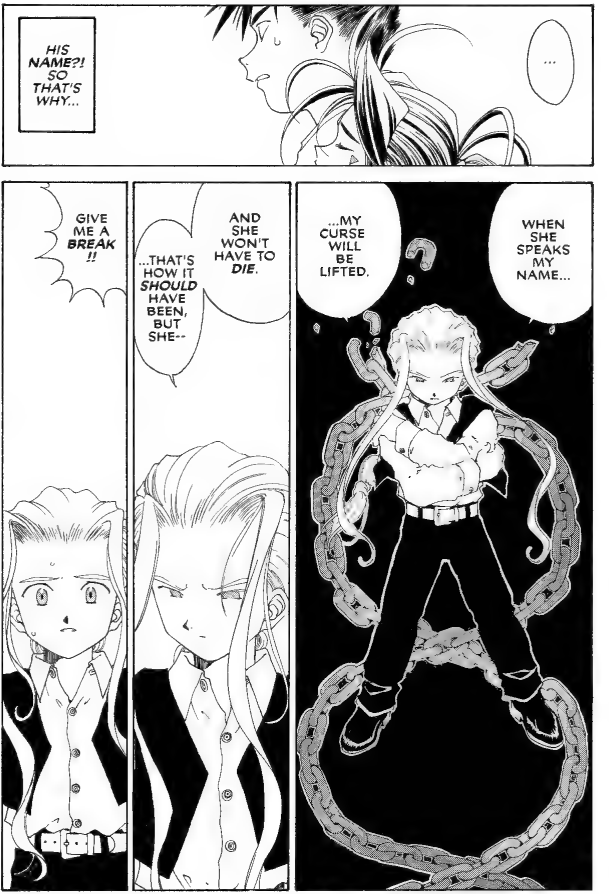

FOR-GET IT. KILL HIM.
...I'LL WIND YOUR TIME BACKWARD UNTIL YOU VANISH!
!!
NO!
BELL-DANDY!
SHE MUST HAVE KNOWN I'D DO IT!


WHY ?!
WHY WILL SHE DO SO MUCH FOR THAT... THAT CREATURE...
...WHEN SHE WON'T EVEN REMEMBER MY NAME?!

IT'S YOUR FAULT!
WHAT HAVE YOU DONE ?!
BELL-DANDY !!
IF YOU WEREN'T HERE, BELLDANDY WOULDN'T HAVE--
?
--PROTECTED YOU AND--
TIME...

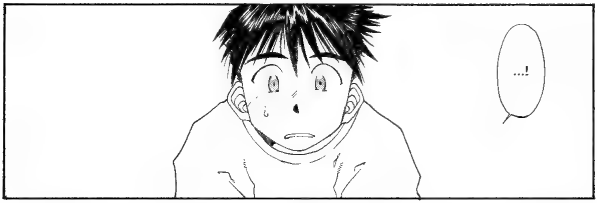

?
Reiko...
...
PLEASE.
BRING BACK...
...TIME.
BRING IT... BACK...

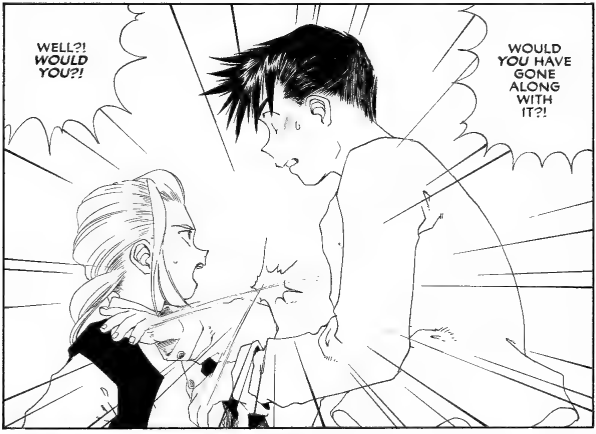
...
YES, THERE *IS.*
IS THERE *ANY* WAY TO BRING BACK TIME?
COME ON-- SURELY YOU CAN BE HONEST *NOW.*
I SET IT UP THAT WAY.
BELLDANDY HAS TO CALL ME BY NAME.

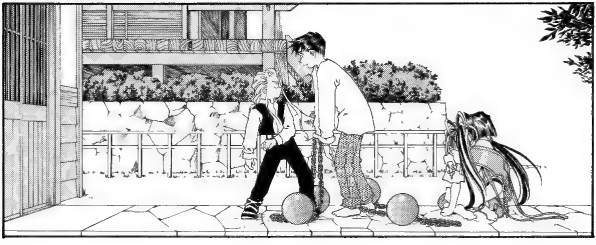

HIS NAME?! SO THAT'S WHY...
...
WHEN SHE SPEAKS MY NAME...
...MY CURSE WILL BE LIFTED.
AND SHE WON'T HAVE TO DIE.
...THAT'S HOW IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN, BUT SHE--
GIVE ME A BREAK !!

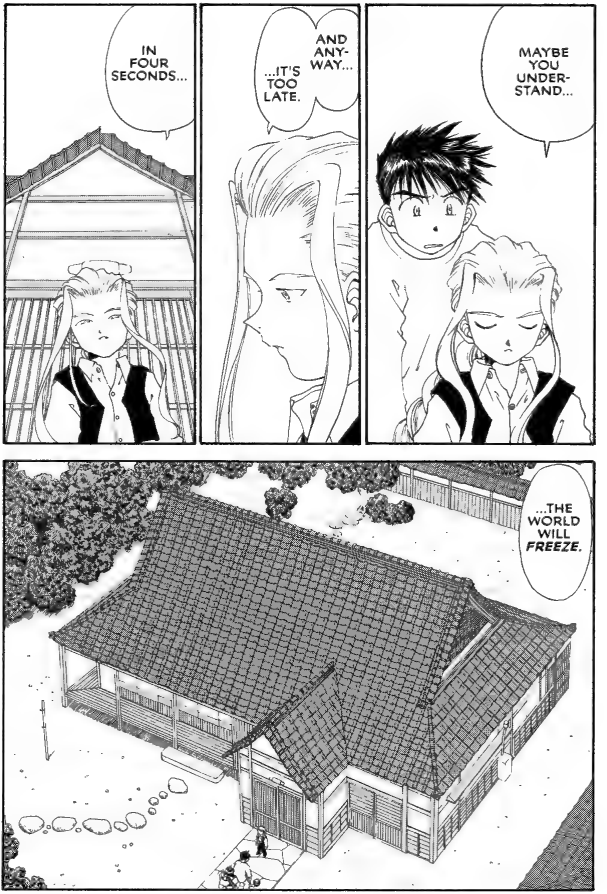
BUT IT WAS *YOUR* SELFISH DESIRE THAT STARTED IT ALL!
...IT'S LIKE IT'S ALL *BELL-DANDY'S* RESPONSIBILITY!
THE WAY *YOU* ACT...
GRAB
...*NONE OF THIS WOULD HAVE EVER HAPPENED !!*
IF YOU'D JUST *FORGOTTEN* HER LIKE YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO...

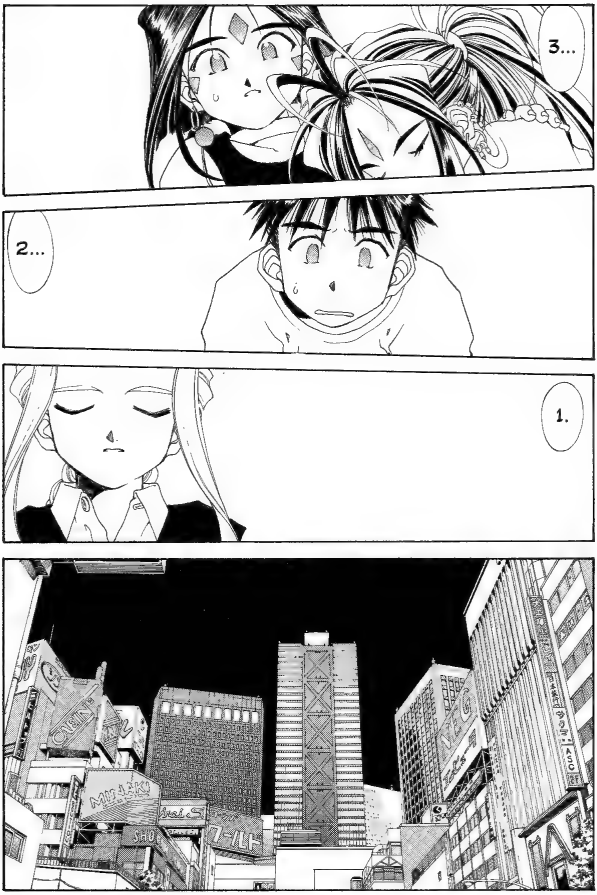
KEI-
ICHI...
...COULD
YOU
FORGET
HER?

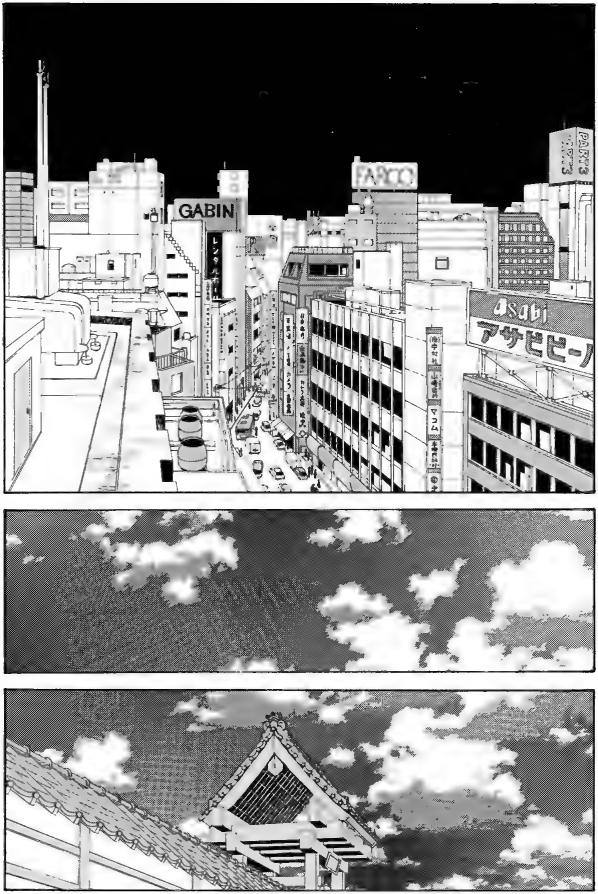

...!


WELL?! WOULD YOU?!
WOULD YOU HAVE GONE ALONG WITH IT?!



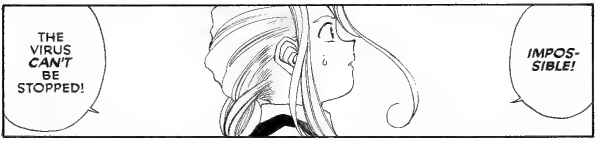

MAYBE YOU UNDER-STAND...
AND ANY-WAY... ...IT'S TOO LATE.
IN FOUR SECONDS...
...THE WORLD WILL FREEZE.

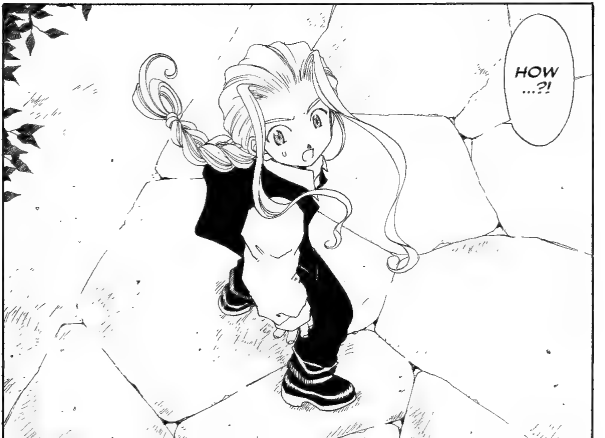

3...
2...
1.


GABIN
PARCO
Asahi
アサヒビール

チチッ
Cheep
チチチ..
Cheep cheep
?!

HUH ...?
SHHH


THE VIRUS CAN'T BE STOPPED!
IMPOS-SIBLE!

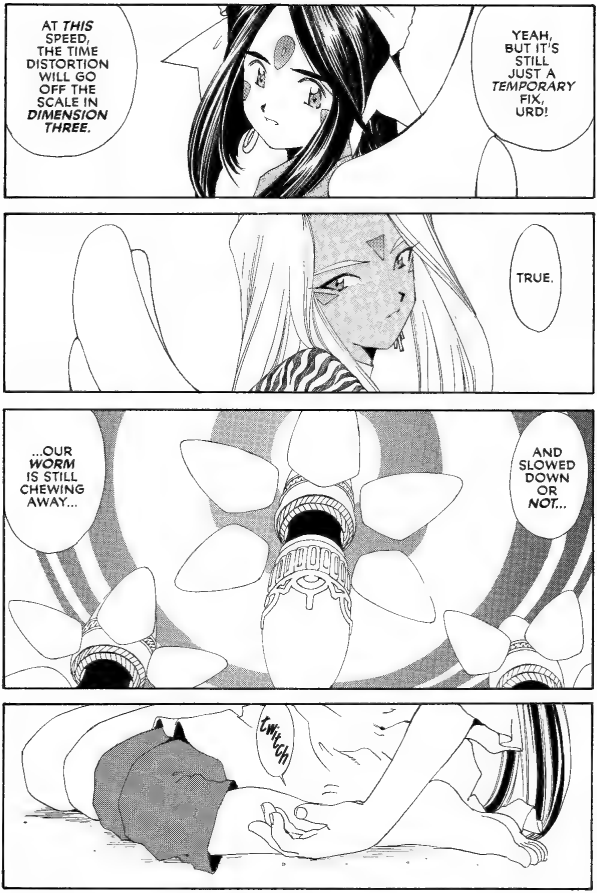

HOW ...?!

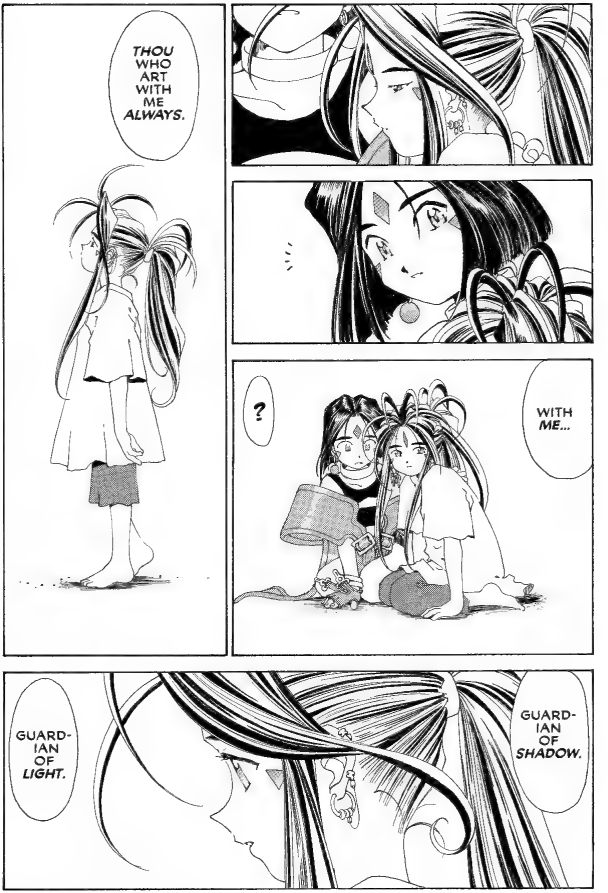
CHAPTER 101

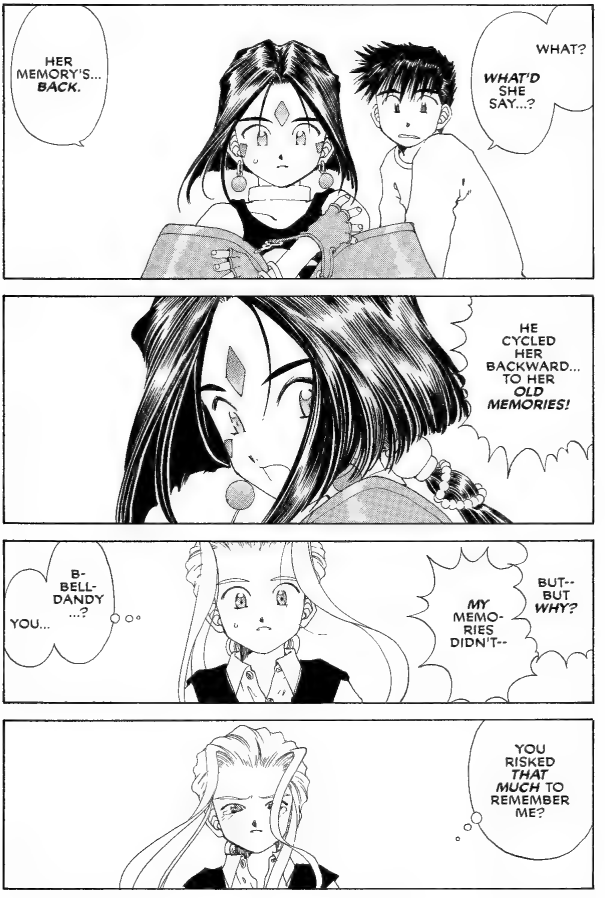
Returned

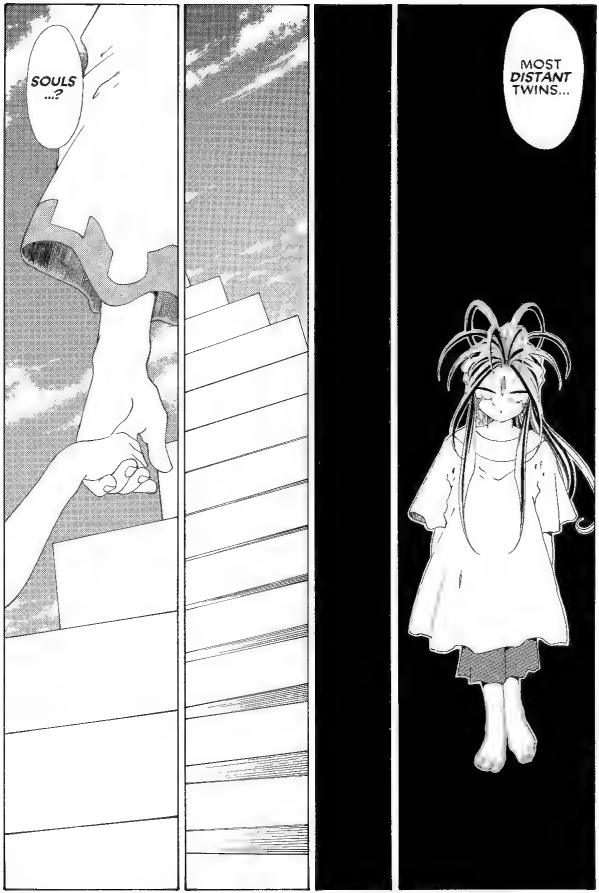
WHY DIDN'T TIME STOP ?!
TH... THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE.
Rrrrrr
Rrrrrr
Rrrrrr
Rrrrrr
Stash
Stash

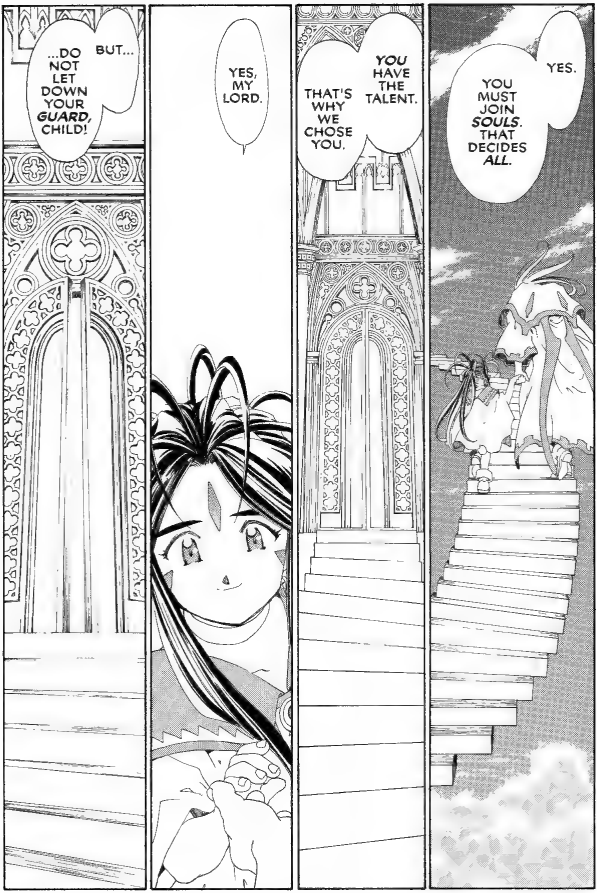
I THOUGHT SO!
BEEP
HEH HEH!
INFILTRATION RATE, DOWN 0.5% AND FALLING!
NOW RECALCULATING... THREE MINUTES TO SYSTEM CRASH!
WHY ...?!
NO PROGRAM CAN OUTRUN THE CENTRAL PROCESSOR!
CUTTING THE CLOCK SPEED WAS A SUPERB CALL.
IF I DO SAY SO MYSELF!

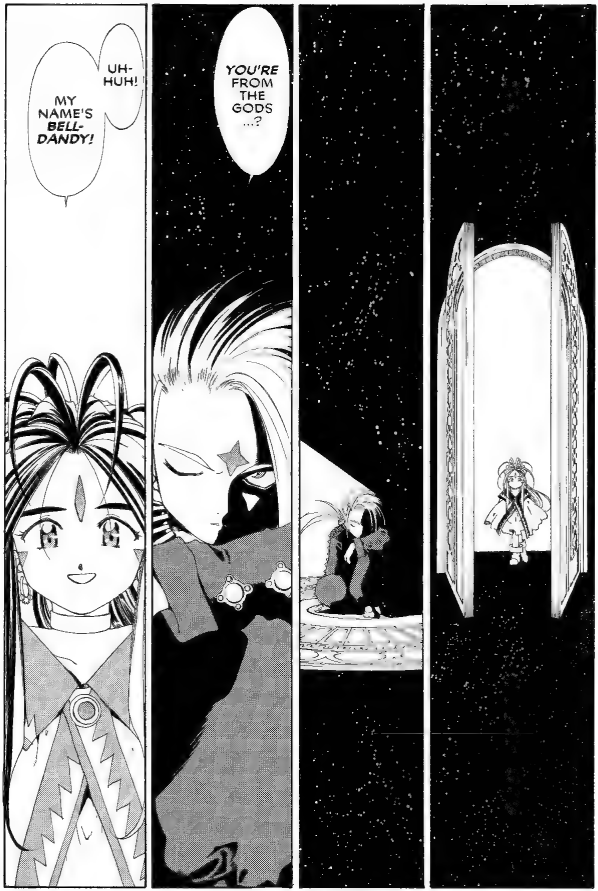

AT *THIS* SPEED, THE TIME DISTORTION WILL GO OFF THE SCALE IN *DIMENSION THREE*.
YEAH, BUT IT'S STILL JUST A *TEMPORARY* FIX, URD!
TRUE.
...OUR *WORM* IS STILL CHEWING AWAY...
AND SLOWED DOWN OR *NOT*...
CHUCK

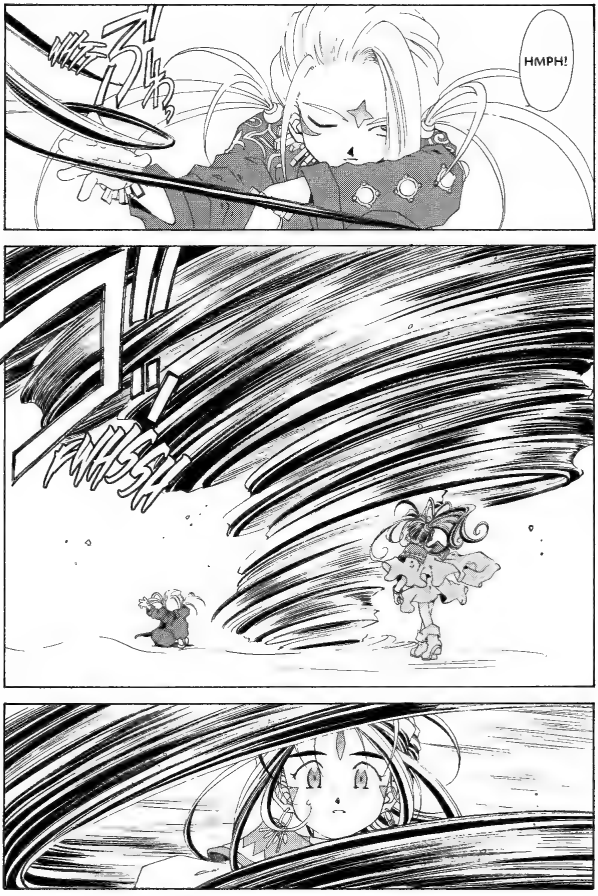

THOU WHO ART WITH ME ALWAYS.
?
WITH ME...
GUARD-IAN OF LIGHT.
GUARD-IAN OF SHADOW.


HER MEMORY'S... *BACK.*
WHAT?
WHAT'D SHE SAY...?
HE CYCLED HER BACKWARD... TO HER *OLD MEMORIES!*
B-BELL-DANDY ...?
YOU...
MY MEMO-RIES DIDN'T--
BUT-- BUT *WHY?*
YOU RISKED *THAT MUCH* TO REMEMBER ME?


SOULS ...?
MOST DISTANT TWINS...


YES.
YOU MUST JOIN *SOULS*. THAT DECIDES *ALL*.
YOU HAVE THE TALENT.
THAT'S WHY WE CHOSE YOU.
YES, MY LORD.
BUT...
...DO NOT LET DOWN YOUR *GUARD*, CHILD!

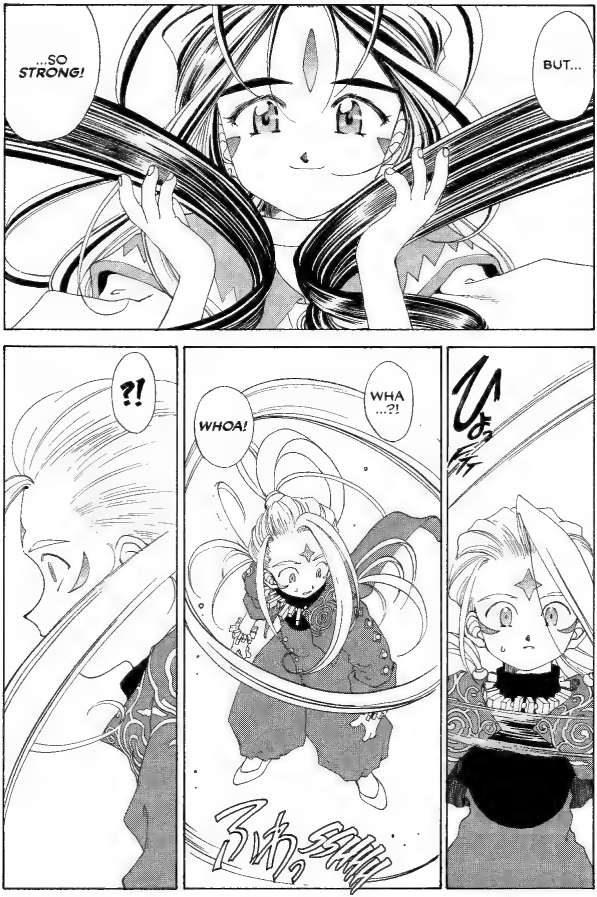

UH-HUH!
MY NAME'S BELL-DANDY!
YOU'RE FROM THE GODS ...?


HMPH!
FWISH!

DON'T MAKE ME *LAUGH*.
ME, DOUBLET WITH A *GODDESS* ...?
AND A *WIMP* GODDESS AT THAT...?!
AS IF I'D...
FWIP
FWIP
WHA--?!

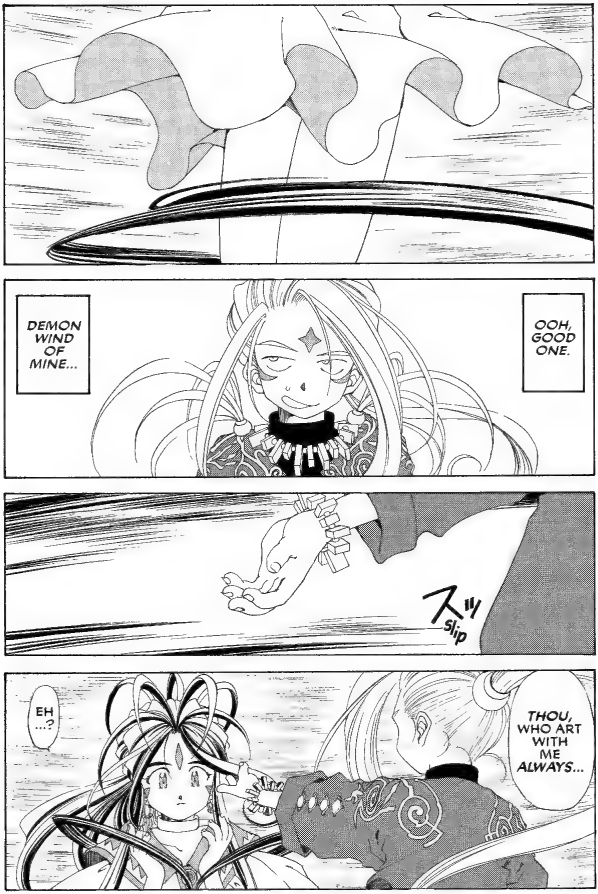
H-HEY!
...!
NNG!
?

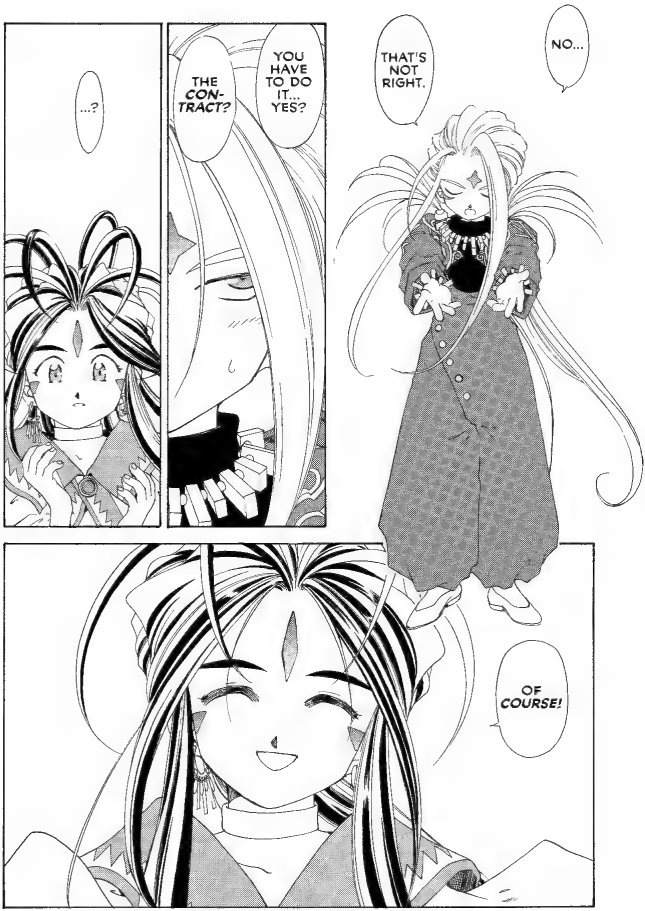
!
M-MY...
...DEMON WIND!
IT... SURREN-DERED?!
SUCH A WILD WIND...

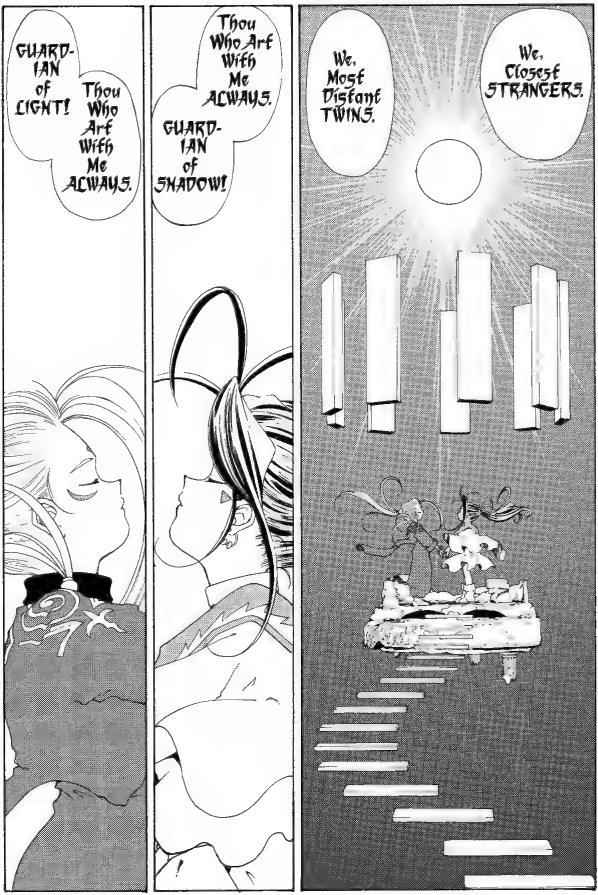

...SO STRONG!
BUT...
?!
WHOA!
WHA ...?!
ひょい
ふわ～

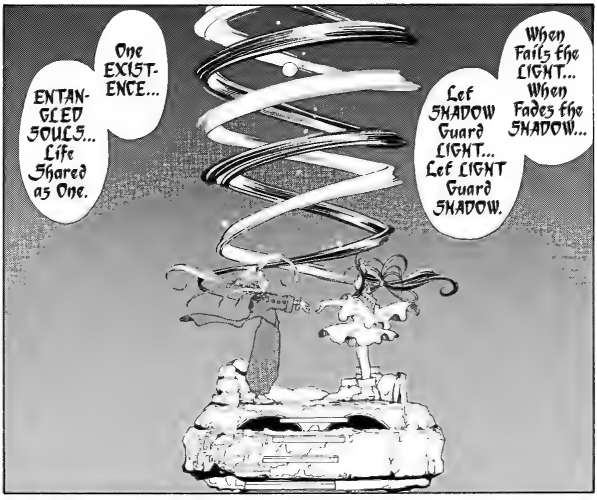
...AND HER WIND!
THEY'RE... SINGING?
MY WIND...
SSSHHHOO
SSSHHHOO
SSSHH
SSSHHHOO
SSSHHHOO
WARM...
SOFT WIND...

MAYBE WITH HER... I COULD...
WITH HER.


DEMON WIND OF MINE...
OOH, GOOD ONE.
スリ
Slip
EH ...?
THOU, WHO ART WITH ME ALWAYS...


...?
THE CON-TRACT?
YOU HAVE TO DO IT... YES?
THAT'S NOT RIGHT.
NO...
OF COURSE!


We, Closest STRANGERS.
We, Most Distant TWINS.
Thou Who Art With Me ALWAYS.
GUARDIAN of SHADOW!
Thou Who Art With Me ALWAYS.
GUARDIAN of LIGHT!

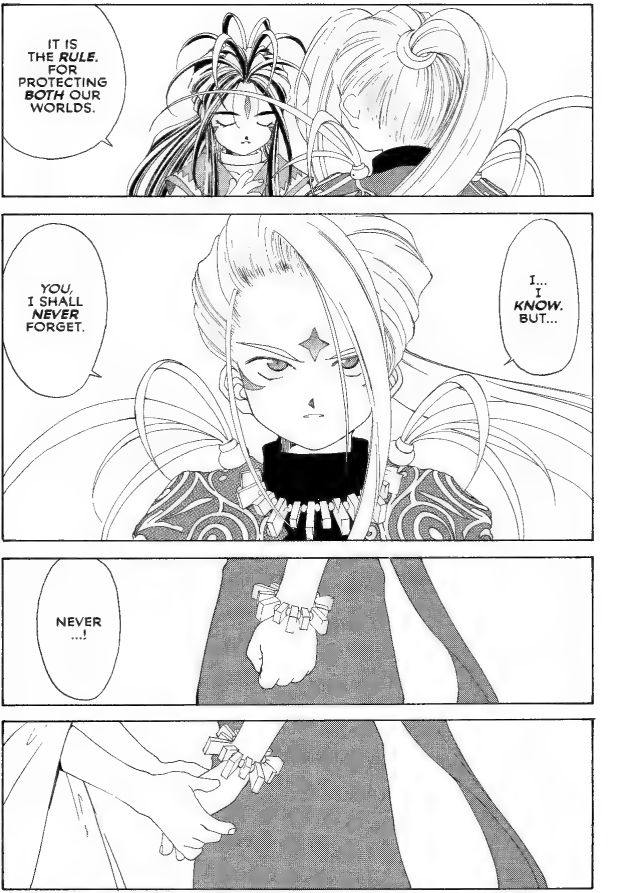

ENTANGLED SOULS... Life Shared as One.
One EXISTENCE...
Let SHADOW Guard LIGHT... Let LIGHT Guard SHADOW.
When Fails the LIGHT... When Fades the SHADOW...

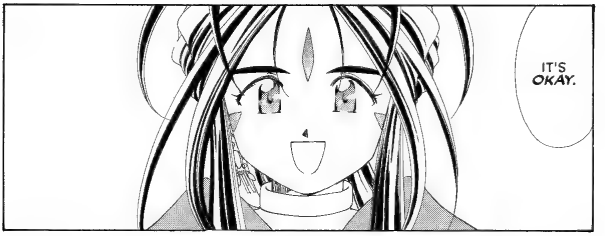
...I, BELLDANDY, DO SO SWEAR!
FOR ALL GODS...

FOR ALL DEMONS...

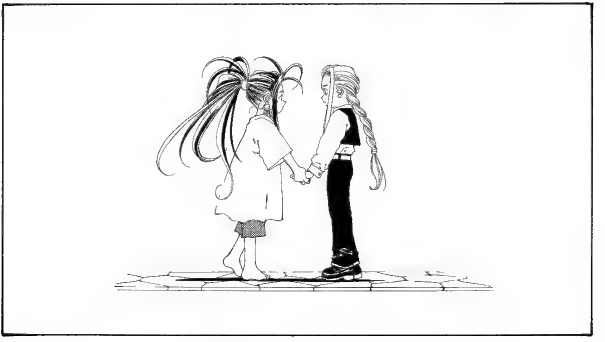
I...
...DO SO SWEAR!

YOU KNOW, DON'T YOU ....?
I... I'M SORRY...
...BUT THAT JUST ISN'T POSSI-BLE.
I WON'T. I WON'T FORGET.
I KNOW.
ABOUT EACH OTHER. ABOUT EVERY-THING.
WHEN WE LEAVE HERE, WE'LL FORGET.

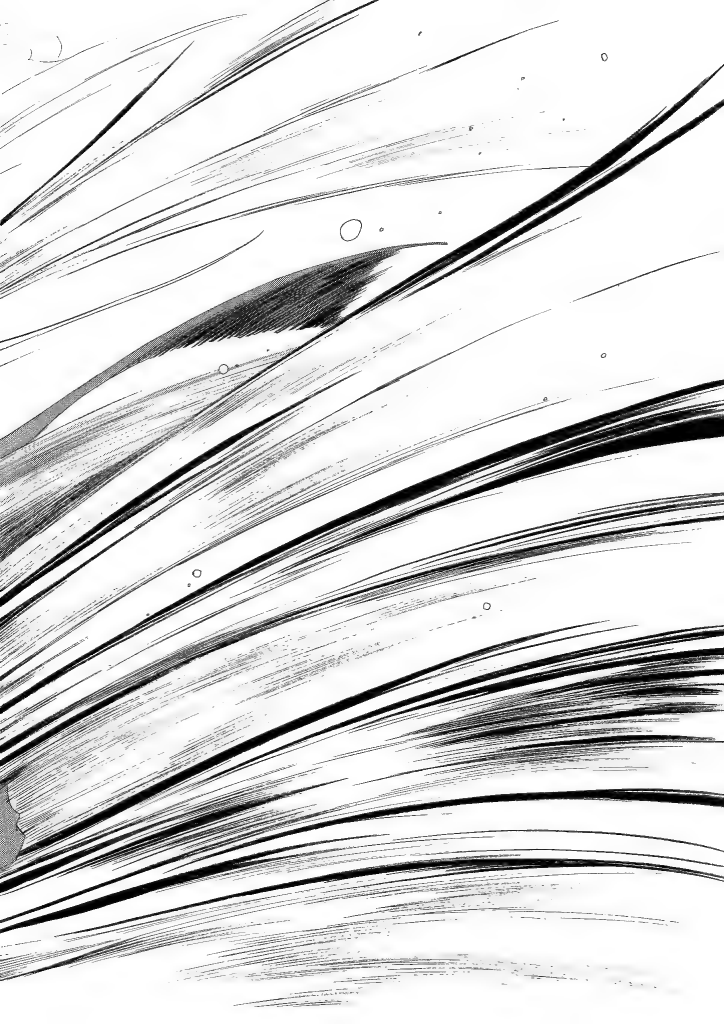

IT IS THE *RULE.* FOR PROTECTING *BOTH* OUR WORLDS.
I... I *KNOW.* BUT...
YOU, I SHALL *NEVER* FORGET.
NEVER ...!


IT'S OKAY.

SOME-HOW, I KNOW WE'LL MEET AGAIN.
I MEAN, YOU AND I...?

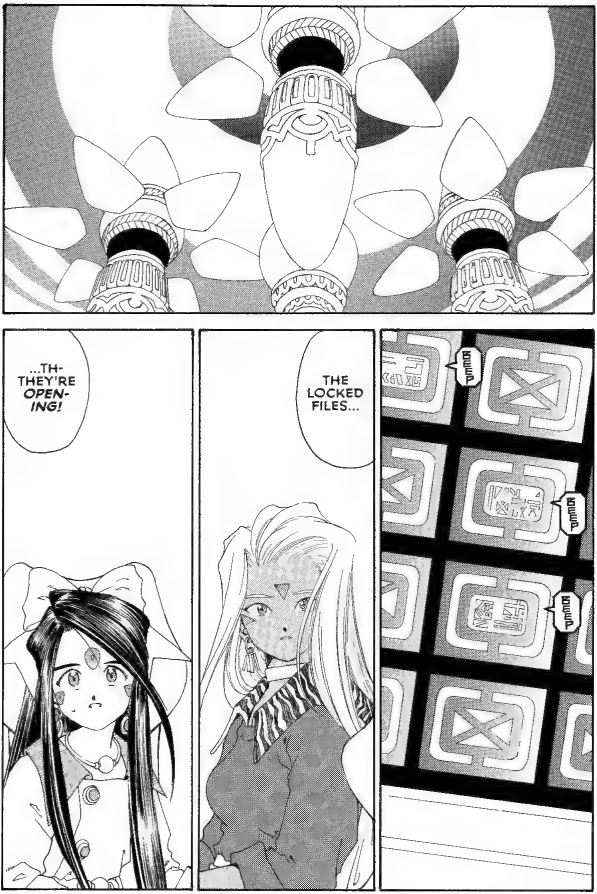


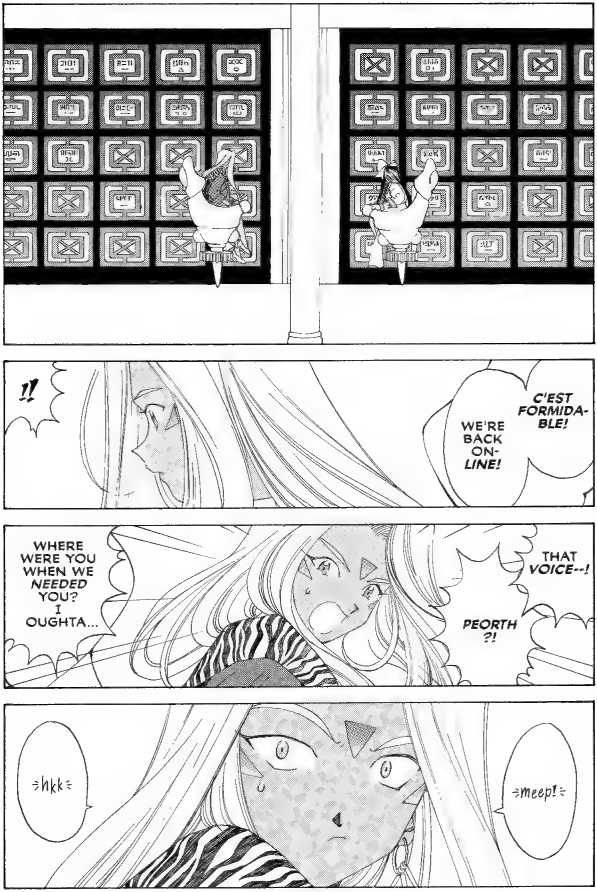
...VELSPER ...!
AND WHEN WE DO, WE'RE GOING TO BE *FRIENDS*...



I...I'D FORGOT-TEN!
THE CONTRACT WASN'T OUR ONLY PROMISE.

MOST DISTANT TWINS...
WE'RE WITH EACH OTHER ALWAYS.


...TH-THEY'RE OPEN-ING!
THE LOCKED FILES...
UHHHH
UHHHH
UHHHH


!!
WE'RE BACK ON-LINE!
C'EST FORMIDA-BLE!
WHERE WERE YOU WHEN WE NEEDED YOU? I OUGHTA...
PEORTH ?!
THAT VOICE--!
÷hkk÷
÷meep!÷

BWA HAW HAW HAW!
SKULD, YOU GOTTA BE AT LEAST TWICE AS TALL! HAW HAW!
WOW! GUESS I'M TALLER NOW, HUH, PEORTH?
I MEAN, BELLDANDY'S BACK TO NORMAL...
WHY DOES THIS SORT OF THING ONLY HAPPEN TO ME?
STOP! YOU'RE KILLING ME!
HEE HEE HMPH!
WHAT?!
WHAT'S SO FUNNY?

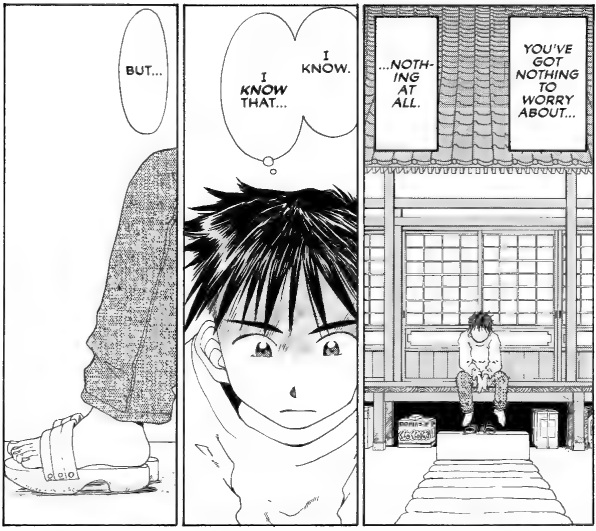
THEN... THIS FORBIDDEN INTRUSION INTO YGGDRASIL ?
YOU ADMIT TO IT?!
I DO.
IN DEMON CENTRAL...
AT THAT MOMENT...
STOP LAUGHING !!
BWA HAW HAW!
YOU! AND YOU! SHUT UP!

THEN I PRONOUNCE *SENTENCE!*
FOR VIOLATING PROVISION ONE, ARTICLE FOUR OF THE *DEMONIC CONCORDANCE*...
...DEMON FIRST CLASS *VELSPER!*
YOU ARE *STRIPPED* OF YOUR POWERS, AND SENTENCED TO *REINCARNATION* AS A *LEVEL-FOUR LIFE FORM!*
BUT AS YOU HAVE *VOLUNTARILY* ADMITTED GUILT...
...YOU MAY *CHOOSE* YOUR DESTINATION.
...
THEN...

THREE DAYS LATER
CAT
WE WILL! TOMOR-ROW, THEN.
THAT'S WONDER-FUL!
REALLY ...?
BYE-BYE PEACE AND QUIET, HUH?
HA, HA.. HA.
URD AND SKULD ARE COMING BACK TOMOR-ROW, DEAR.

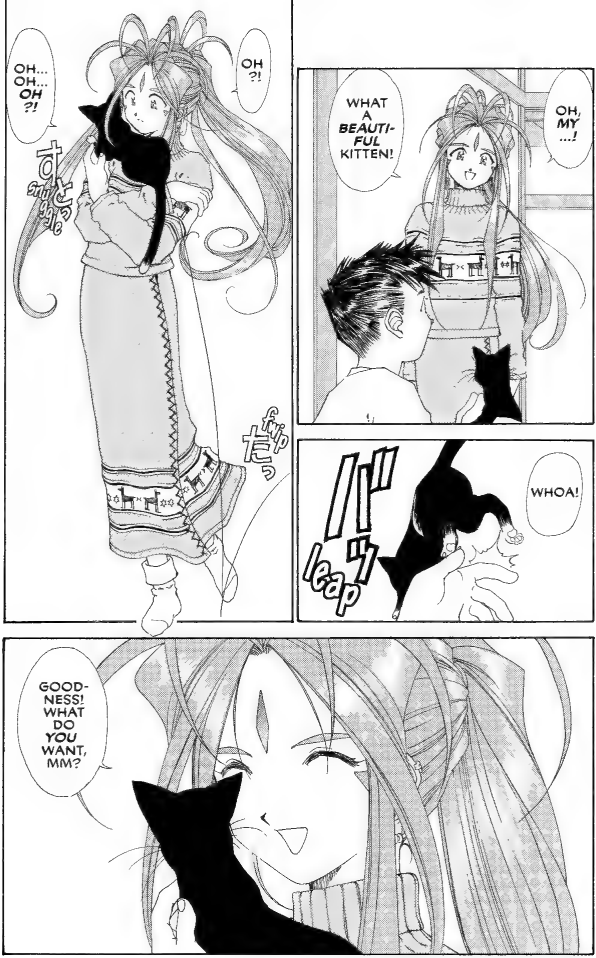
♬
...SHE WOULDNT REMEMBER ANY-THING.
PEORTH TOLD ME THAT WHEN SHE WOKE UP AGAIN...
HUH ...?
FOR HER, I MEAN.
IT'S BETTER THAT WAY, YOU KNOW.
...EXPUNGED FROM HER MEMORY.
IT HAS TO BE FORCI-BLY...

HE'S GOING TO BE TRIED... AND SEVERELY PUNISHED.
WHAT VELSPER DID IS A SERIOUS CRIME AGAINST BOTH GODLY *AND* DEMONIC LAW.
IF BELL-DANDY *REMEMBERED*...
...SHE'D *REALIZE* THAT, RIGHT AWAY.
YES... I SEE.
AND IT WOULD *TORTURE* HER.
EXACTLY.
AND SO...


BUT...
I KNOW THAT...
I KNOW.
...NOTHING AT ALL.
YOU'VE GOT NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT...

SO WHAT ABOUT HIS FEELINGS NOW...?
...THE GUY WAS DESPERATE TO REMEMBER HER... THAT MUCH I CAN UNDERSTAND.

NYOWN?
MRWRR...
HUH ...?
YOU ...!
!?!
WELL, WELL!
WHERE'D YOU COME FROM, KITTY?

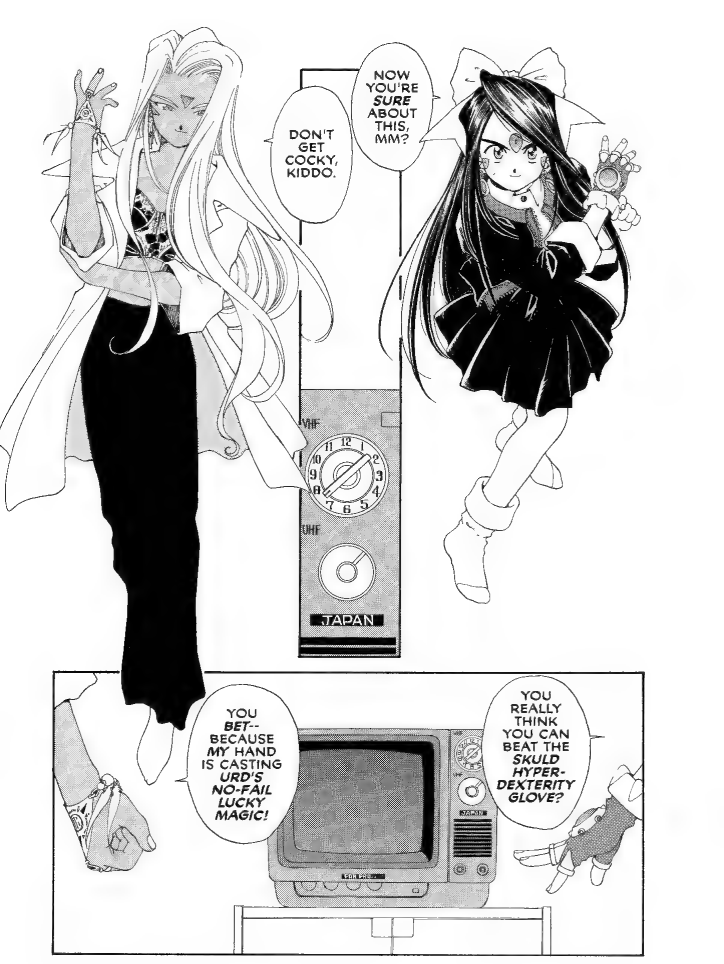

OH...
OH...
OH
?!
すとっ
OH
?!
ふわっ
だっ
WHAT A BEAUTI-FUL KITTEN!
OH, MY ...!
WHOA!
バッ
leap
GOOD-NESS! WHAT DO YOU WANT, MM?

I WON'T FIGHT IT.
SOMETIMES... YOU'VE GOT TO ACCEPT FATE.
HE SEEMS LIKE A STRAY. SHALL WE KEEP HIM?
OH, CAN WE?! THEN... HE'LL NEED A NAME.
...
MOWT?

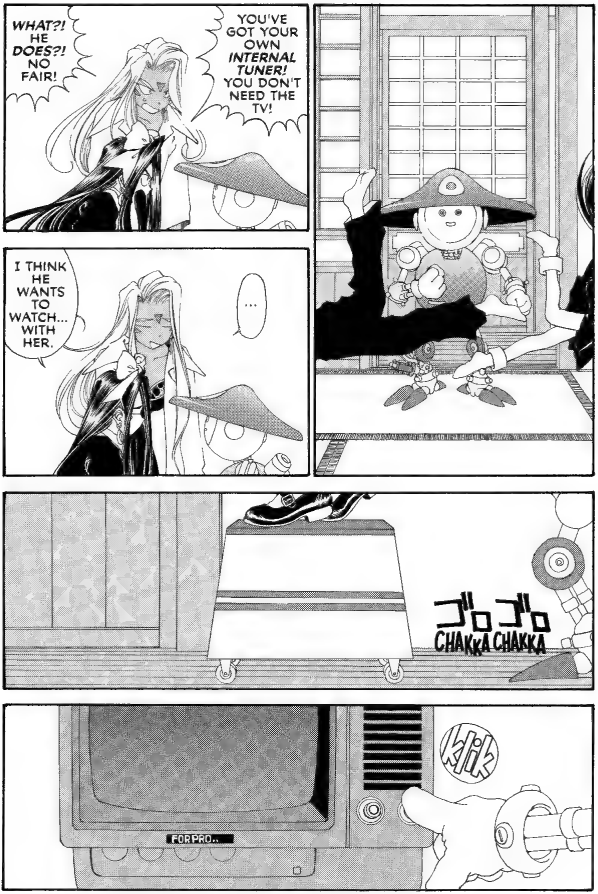
THE MOMENT SHE SAID IT...
IS... IS IT OKAY IF I NAME HIM?
K... KEIICHI ...?
I MEAN... AFTER ALL...
WHAT'LL IT BE?
SURE.
...I KNEW WHAT NAME SHE'D CHOOSE.
VELSPER!
...THEY'RE STILL CONNECT-ED.

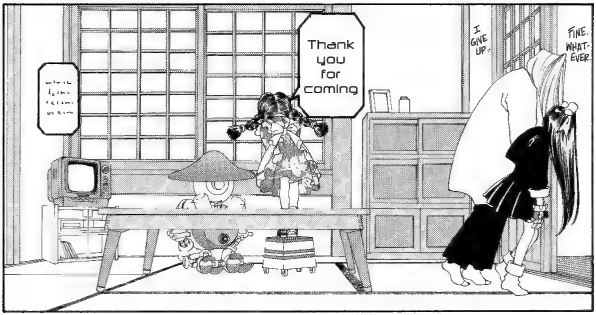
CHAPTER 102

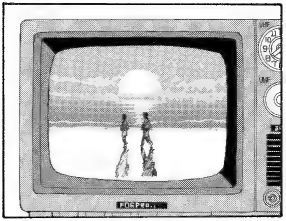
Come Walk with Me


DON'T GET COCKY, KIDDO.
NOW YOU'RE *SURE* ABOUT THIS, MM?
VHF
UHF
JAPAN
YOU *BET*-- BECAUSE *MY* HAND IS CASTING *URD'S NO-FAIL LUCKY MAGIC!*
YOU REALLY THINK YOU CAN BEAT THE *SKULD HYPER-DEXTERITY GLOVE?*

ROCK!
PAPER!
SCISS--

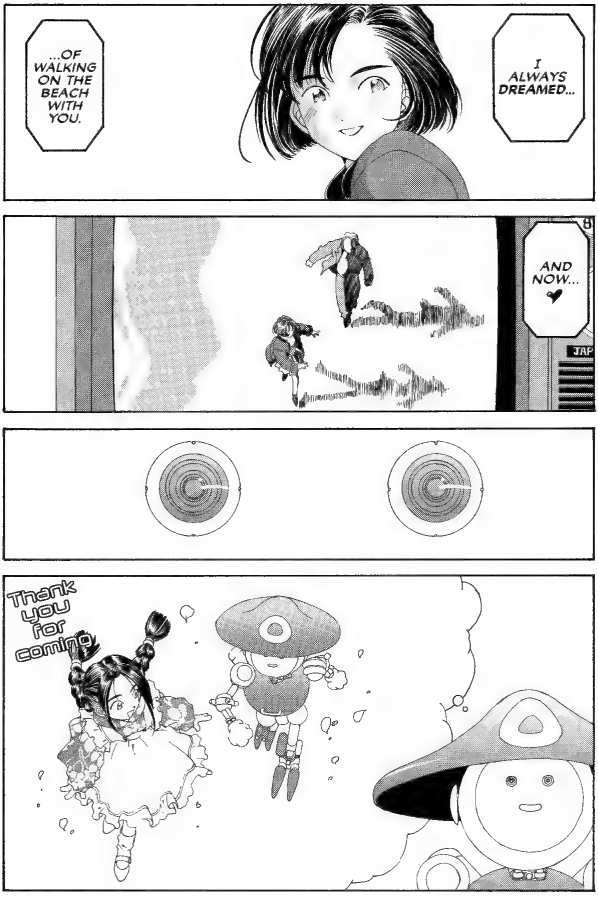

WHAT?! HE DOES?! NO FAIR!
YOU'VE GOT YOUR OWN INTERNAL TUNER! YOU DON'T NEED THE TV!
I THINK HE WANTS TO WATCH... WITH HER.
...
ゴロゴロ
CHAKKA CHAKKA
FOR PRO...


Thank you for coming
I GIVE UP.
FINE. WHATEVER.

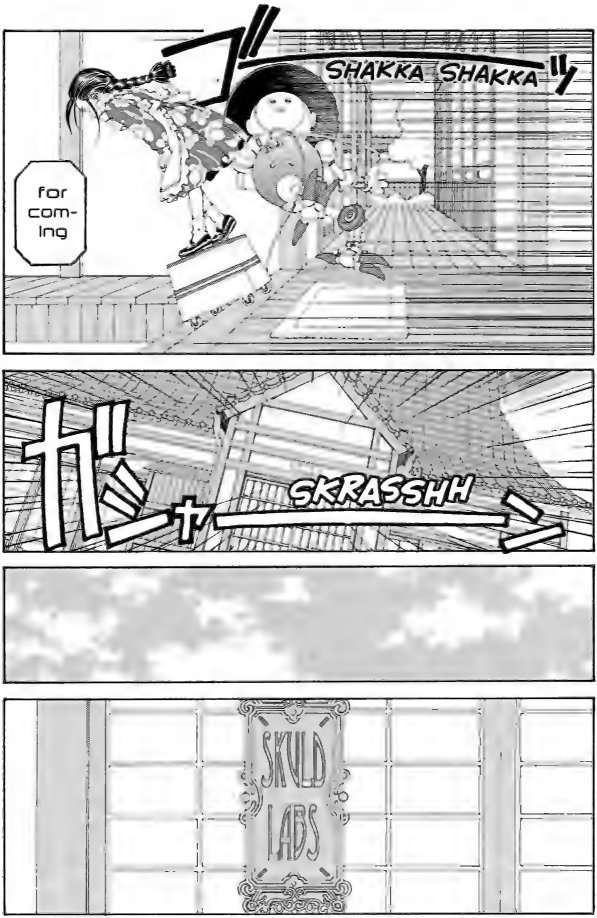

FOR PRO...

YOU KNOW...
FOR PRO...

Wel-come!
WELCOME
To WHIRLWIND


...OF WALKING ON THE BEACH WITH YOU.
I ALWAYS DREAMED...
AND NOW... ♥
JAP
Thank you for coming

KCHAKKA
Wel-
come!
CHAKKA
Thank
you
SHAKA
CHAKKA


SHAKKA SHAKKA
for com-ing
ガシャ
SKRASSHH
SKULD LABS

YOU WANT HER TO BE ABLE TO WALK?
HUH ...?
I MEAN... IT'S NOT LIKE I CAN'T DO IT, BUT...
OH, ALL RIGHT. MAYBE IT'S FOR THE BEST.
...
Thank you
WELCOME TO WARLWIND

WHEWW... TOUGH WEEK, HUH?
YES, BUT WE HAVE TOMORROW OFF.
YOU CAN SLEEP IN, RELAX...
I SURE HOPE SO
HEY, WE'RE HOME...
SHAKK
HELLO ...!

KSSHK
KURURI
YEESH... HE'S BEEN LIKE THIS ALL AFTER-NOON.
HI, GUYS.
?

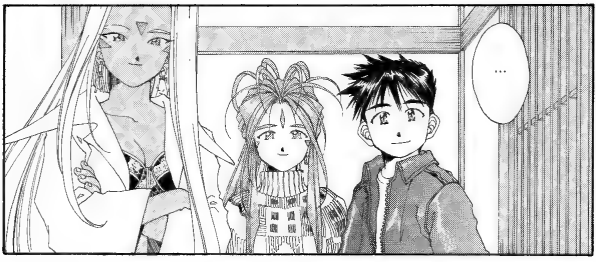
IS HE... BROKEN ?!
NO.
IT LOOKS LIKE HE'S...
...VERY EXCITED.
THIS IS HOW HE SHOWS IT?!
RIGHT!
FROM GRANDMA'S BAG OF TRICKS-- THE DIAGONAL FORTY-FIVE-DEGREE CHOP!

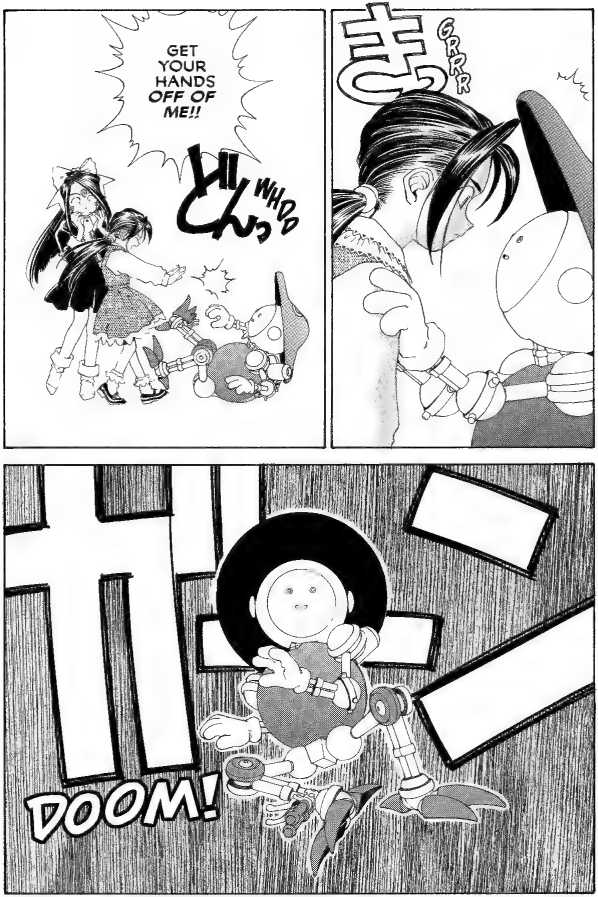
DON'T YOU DARE!!
BANPEI ISN'T BROKEN, URD!
JUST BECAUSE THAT OLD LADY WE GOT THE WELCOME ROBOT FROM BOPPED YOU LIKE THAT, YOU CAN'T...
...DO THIS?
CHOP
ポカッ
SEE?
ON.
プニュ
OH...
!!

...SHE'S WALK-ING!
LOOK ...!

GOOD EVENING, EVERY-BODY.
AND THAT'S NOT ALL...
ニコ
Smile

W... WOW.
WHAT ARE *YOU* BLUSHING FOR?
COOL, HUH?
I EVEN GAVE HER *EMOTION* CIRCUITS!




GET YOUR HANDS OFF OF ME!!
WHDD
GRRR
DOOM!

!!
HMPH! IF YOU WON'T *LISTEN*...
...THEN SO BE IT!

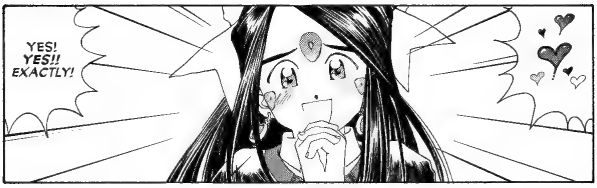
--PUNCH!!
ROCKET--
WHOOMP
FWHOOSH
KRANGG!!

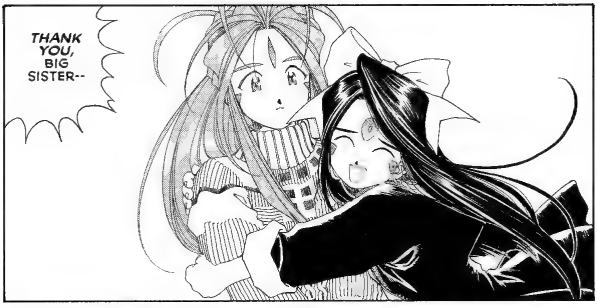
...!!
ガシン
BAN-PEI!!

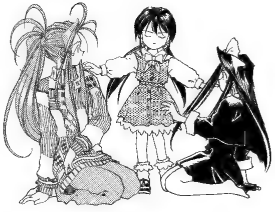
ER... COME TO THINK OF IT, MAYBE SO...
NO!!
WELL? YES OR NO?
BASIC ROBOTICS, YES...?
IT WAS A ROCKET PUNCH.
HUH ...?
WH-WHAT THE HECK WAS THAT?!
DIDN'T YOU DESIGN HER TO LIKE BANPEI?
BUT WHY'D SHE REACT LIKE THAT, SKULD?!

YOU FORGOT, DIDN'T YOU.
NO I DIDN'T!
THEN... WHY?
UM... GUY WINS GIRL-- BY HIMSELF!
BASIC HUMAN-TICS! RIGHT?

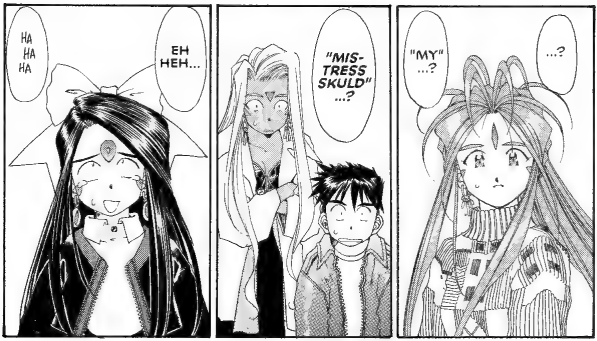
BUT...
I DETECT A DISBELIEF RATING OF 128%.
YEAH, *RIGHT.*
...
YOU CAN'T REALLY *LOVE* SOMEONE... IF YOU'RE JUST *PROGRAMMED* TO DO SO.
...SHE *IS* RIGHT.

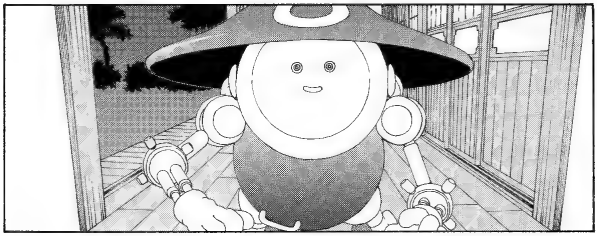

YES!
YES!!
EXACTLY!


THANK
YOU,
BIG
SISTER--

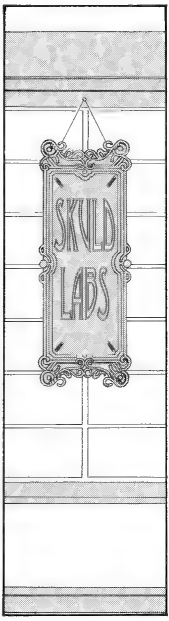


DON'T YOU TOUCH MY MISTRESS SKULD.

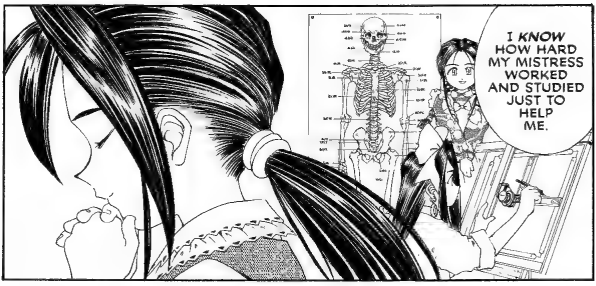

HA HA HA
EH HEH...
"MIS-TRESS SKULD" ...?
"MY" ...?
...?



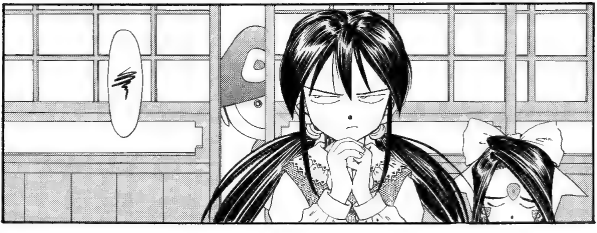
HOW DID THIS HAPPEN ...?!


SKULD LABS

YOU CAN'T FOOL ME.


I KNOW HOW HARD MY MISTRESS WORKED AND STUDIED JUST TO HELP ME.

THIS IS... True Love!
B-BUT...
I WAS HELPING BANPEI...



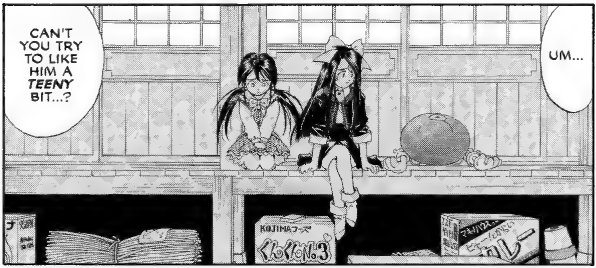
UM... WHAT IS IT YOU DON'T LIKE ABOUT BANPEI ...?
SQUEEZE
WELL... FOR EXAMPLE, THAT BORING FACE...
...NOT TO MENTION THAT WIMPY ATTITUDE !!
WHAM!

ROCKET PUNCH!
WHOOSH!
HMPH. NOT TOO SHABBY...
KSHAKK
SNKK
...BUT YOU WON'T DODGE THESE!

BREAST...
...MISSILES!!

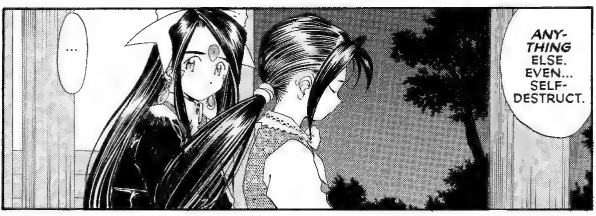
WHY DIDN'T THEY FIRE ...?
?
...
UM... YOU DON'T...
...HAVE ANY.
EH ...?
EH ?!

きゃーーーっ
SHRIIIEEEEK!
プニュ
BUT... BUT! THESE HATCHES!!
WHAT ARE THEY FOR?!
PLUG COVERS, ONE FOR RECHARGING, ONE FOR THE DATA PORT.


CAN'T YOU TRY TO LIKE HIM A *TEENY* BIT...?
UM...

I MEAN... HE'S GOT *GOOD POINTS,* TOO, YOU KNOW.

...*EXCEPT THAT.*
I... I'LL DO ANYTHING MY MISTRESS ORDERS ME TO...


...
ANY-THING ELSE. EVEN... SELF-DESTRUCT.

...
=sigh=
ALWAYS TRYING THE IMPOS-SIBLE...

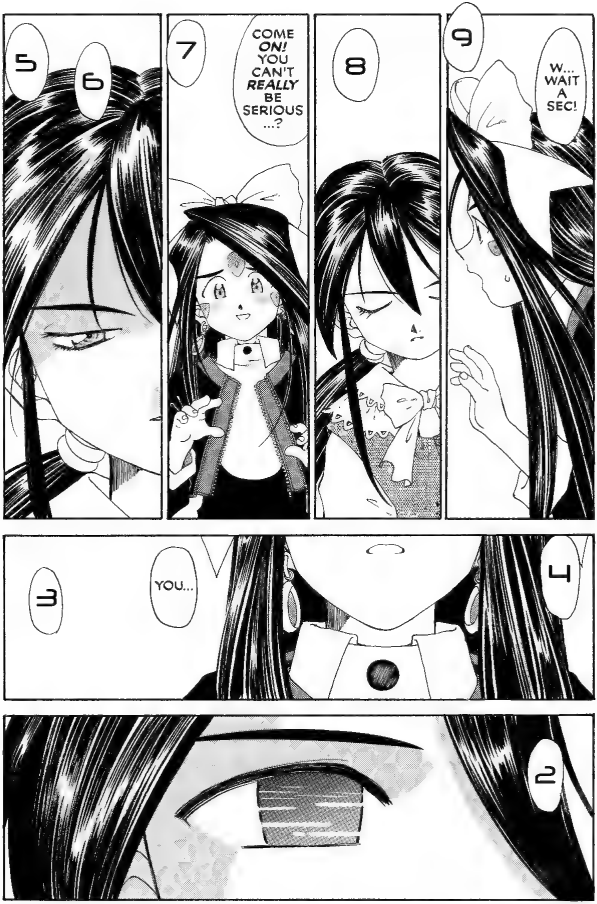
CHAPTER 103

Getting to Know You

EVEN... SELF-DESTRUCT.
ALWAYS TRYING THE IMPOS-SIBLE...
=sigh=
...
SSH
GOUKA

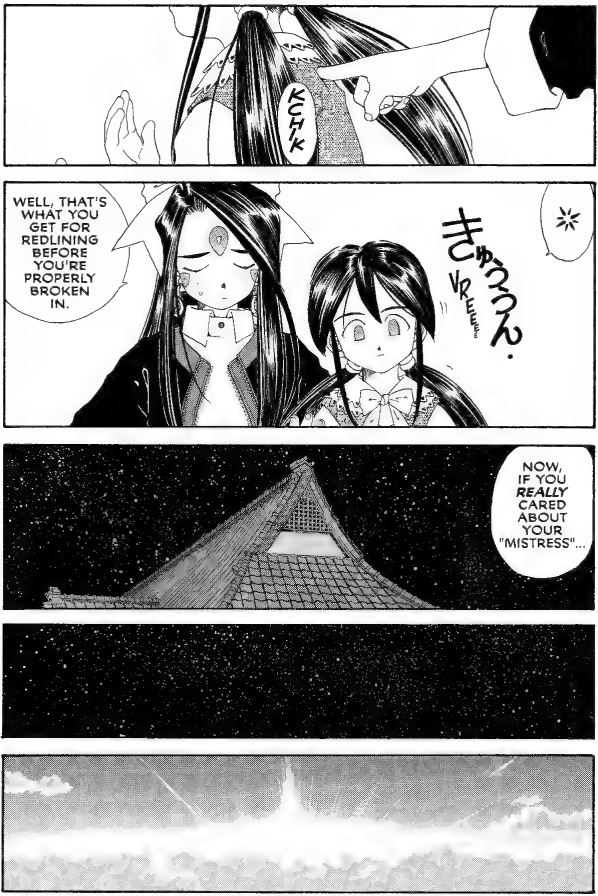
Activate Self-Destruct Mode
สุดยอด
?
=k i k=

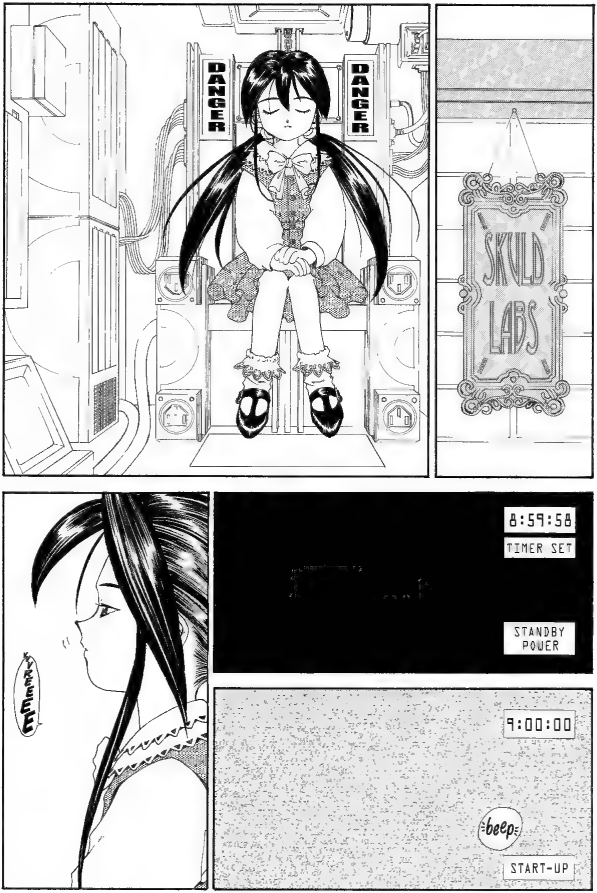
Now counting down to Self-Destruct
Evacuation Alert: fifteen-foot radius
10
Destruct Mode, running
...THIS IS NOT FUNNY.


5
6
7
COME ON! YOU CAN'T REALLY BE SERIOUS ...?
8
9
W... WAIT A SEC!
3
YOU...
4
2

OKAY!! YOU WIN! STOP! DON'T!!
I
vreeeee
COMMAND OVERRIDE CODE A-R-D-J FIVE-ZERO-FOUR-ONE!!
WHEWW
Termi-nated klik
Self-Destruct Program

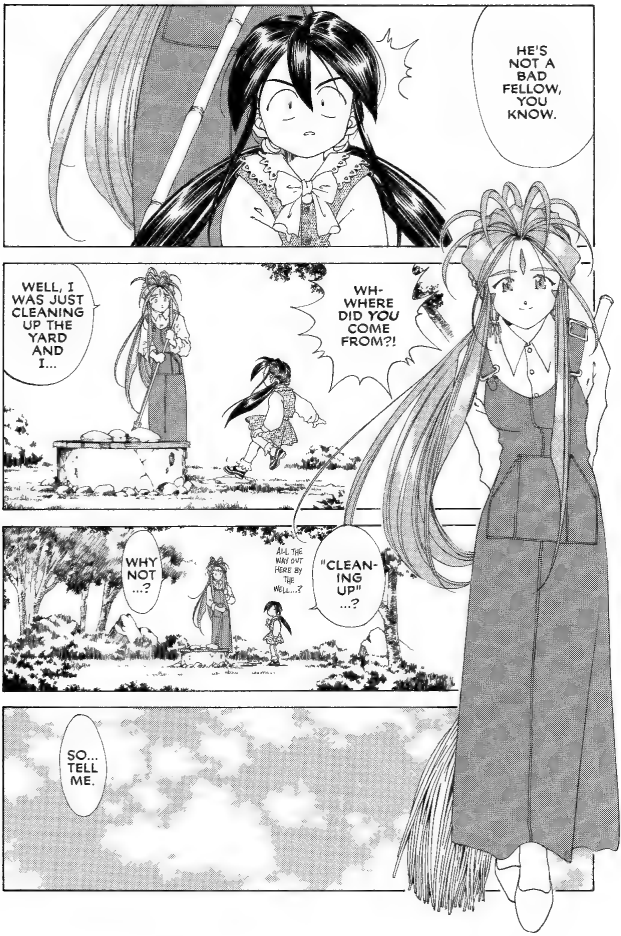
THANK YOU!
THANK YOU, MY MISTRESS!
I KNEW MY MISTRESS WOULD UNDER-STAND!
I... HUH?
I... I-I-I...!!
S-S-SOME... SOME-THING... TH-THING IS...
WRO-WRO... NG...


ぐにゅ
きゅうっ。
WELL, THAT'S WHAT YOU GET FOR REDLINING BEFORE YOU'RE PROPERLY BROKEN IN.
NOW, IF YOU *REALLY* CARED ABOUT YOUR "MISTRESS"...


DANGER
DANGER
SKULD LABS
8:59:58
TIMER SET
STANDBY POWER
9:00:00
beep
START-UP
EEEEE

ANGER
Yeeee
ANGER
...YOU THOUGHT YOU'D STEAL A LITTLE KISS...
MAY-BE...
...JUST *WHAT* WERE YOU THINKING, HMM?
...

ROCKET PUNCH!
AND THAT'S WHY I HATE YOU...
YOU ARE SUCH A PERVERT!
HMPH!!

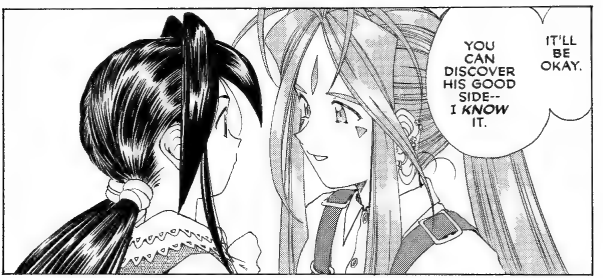

HE'S NOT A BAD FELLOW, YOU KNOW.
WELL, I WAS JUST CLEANING UP THE YARD AND I...
WH-WHERE DID YOU COME FROM?!
WHY NOT ...?
ALL THE WAY OUT HERE BY THE WELL...?
"CLEAN-ING UP" ...?
SO... TELL ME.

OUR POOR LITTLE BANPEI...
WHY DO YOU DISLIKE HIM SO?
...
...AND SOME *TOTAL STRANGER* SAID HE WAS IN LOVE WITH YOU...
IF *YOU* WOKE UP ONE DAY...
LET *ME* ASK *YOU* SOMETHING.

HMM...
...IF IT WAS ME ...?
HAVING "LOVE" *FORCED* ON YOU...
...WHEN YOU DON'T EVEN *KNOW* HIM?
...WOULD *YOU* SAY "OH, *FINE!*"
WOULD *YOU* JUST ACCEPT IT...?!

THAT'S WHAT I'D DO.
...I'D START BY GETTING TO KNOW HIM.
EH ...?!
...YOU'LL NEVER KNOW ANY-BODY... RIGHT?
AFTER ALL, IF YOU REJECT EVERYONE YOU DON'T ALREADY KNOW...

IN THE BEGIN-NING, WE'RE *ALL* A MYSTERY...
...TO EACH OTHER.


IT'LL BE OKAY.
YOU CAN DISCOVER HIS GOOD SIDE-- I *KNOW* IT.

HMPH!! AS IF I'D WANT TO!
!

NO WAY!!
SKREEEE
キャイイイン

FWOOSH
KSHANG
VRMBBB
NO WAY!!
YES, STEP BY STEP.

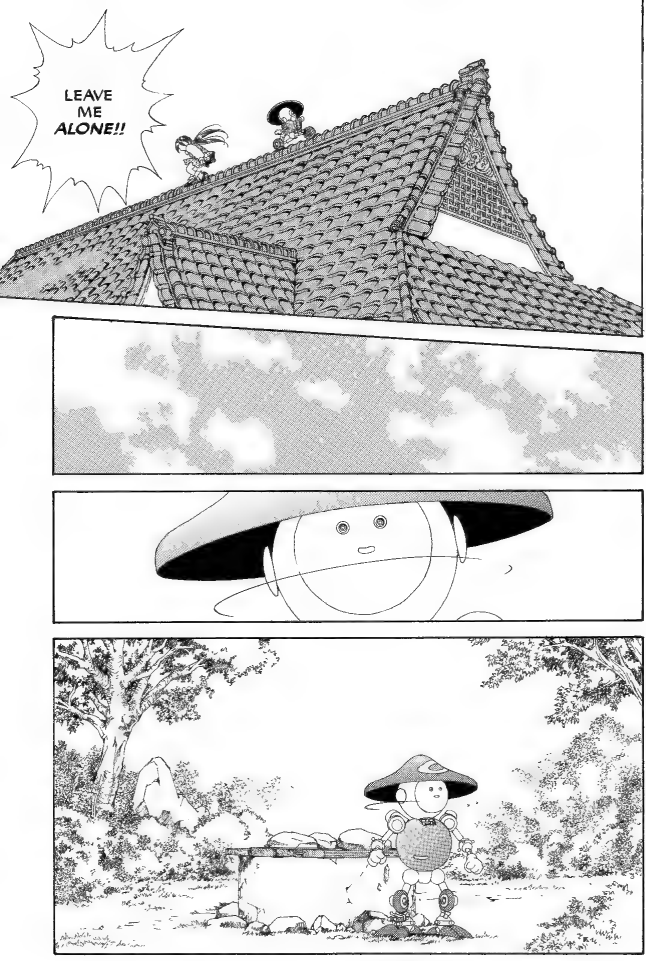
AFTER ALL...
...THAT'S HOW YOUR MISTRESS DID IT, TOO.
DON'T YOU EVER GIVE UP?!
SKREEE

SHAKK
PISHAN
Pisuu!
HAH! BEG ALL YOU WANT! THIS DOOR STAYS CLOSED!
RATTLE
RATTLE

KYAAAA!

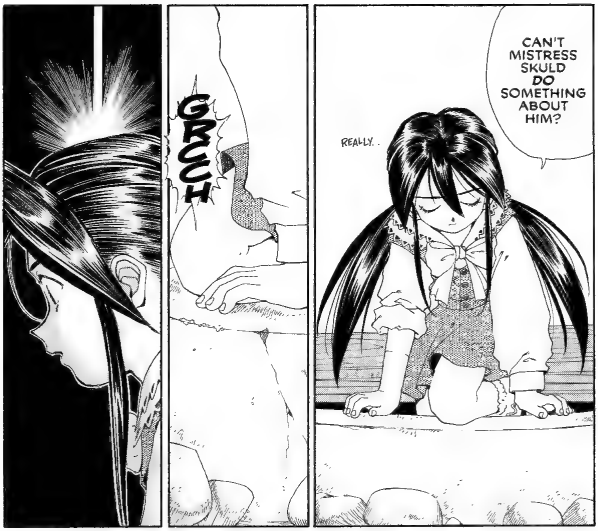
SPRAAAKKK
graphix
WHAT THE HECK ?!
SPRRAAKK

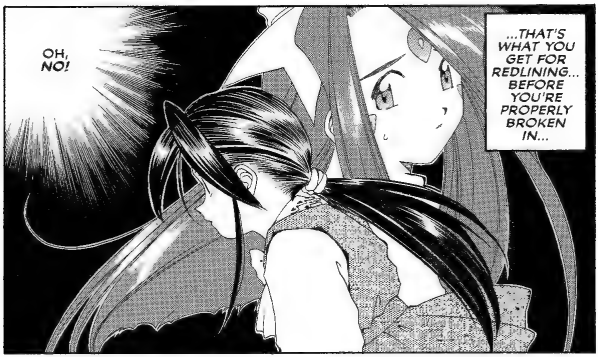
VWHOOSH
HEY!! WHAT'S GOING ON OUT HERE?!
NO, NO, NO!!
PARDON ?
"THE STORMS OF SPRING."


LEAVE
ME
ALONE!!

ボスッ
MINIMUM ROCKET PUNCH
スー
slip
FWAP ガシン
!!

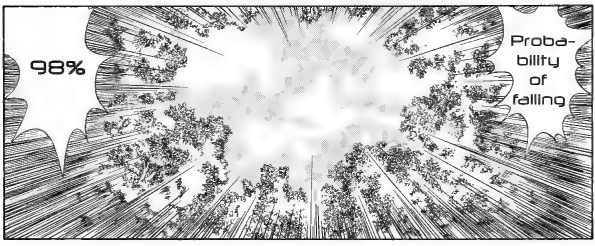
VWHTT
GGUNK
VREEE
WHSHNG
KTAK
YEESH ...!


CAN'T MISTRESS SKULD DO SOMETHING ABOUT HIM?
REALLY...
GRUCH


...THAT'S WHAT YOU GET FOR REDLINING... BEFORE YOU'RE PROPERLY BROKEN IN...
OH, NO!

Arm servos 2, 3, 5: MAL-FUNCTION
Knee joint R: MAL-FUNCTION
TING
KRIK

Vertical balance error
Gyro bearing failure


98%
Proba-bility of falling

beep
beep
beep
beep

THE ADVENTURES OF THE MINI-GODDESSES: SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT!

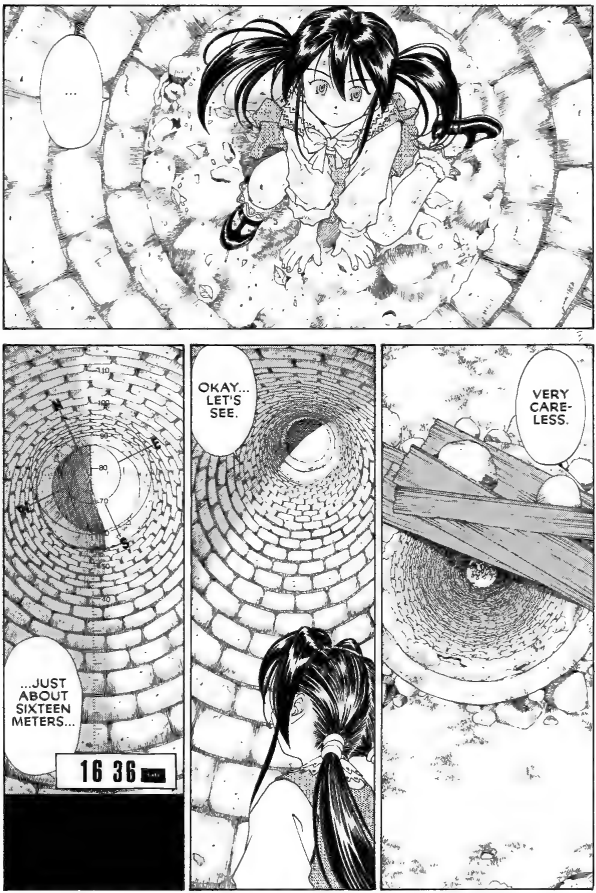
NO, I SAID *TANKOBON*. IT'S *JAPANESE*.
YOU JUST SAID, "TANK YOU, MON."
SALT FISH AN' ACKEE?
SALT WATER TAFFY?
SUP SUP
STOP THAT! I'M A GODDESS, THE *WORD* IS JAPANESE!
"JEEZAM PIECE"?! I THOUGHT YOU WAS A *GODDESS*, MON!
YU A SALT UP DI TINGS
LOOK, DUMMY! *TANKOBON* IS JAPANESE FOR "GRAPHIC NOVEL," AND NOW WE'VE GOT ONE! THIS IS NO MINOR ACHIEVEMENT!
IT SAYS HERE OUR *TANKOBON* IS NOW ON SALE!
HEY, LOOK, GAN-CHAN!
NEWS
WOULD YOU PLEASE STICK TO *ONE* STUPID JOKE?
DIS YER OWN COAL!
NO MINER ACHIEVEMENT?! THAT'S IT! *I'M ON STRIKE!*
UNFAIR
NO, JAPANESE. WHY?
EH? YOU TALKIN' JAMAICAN?!

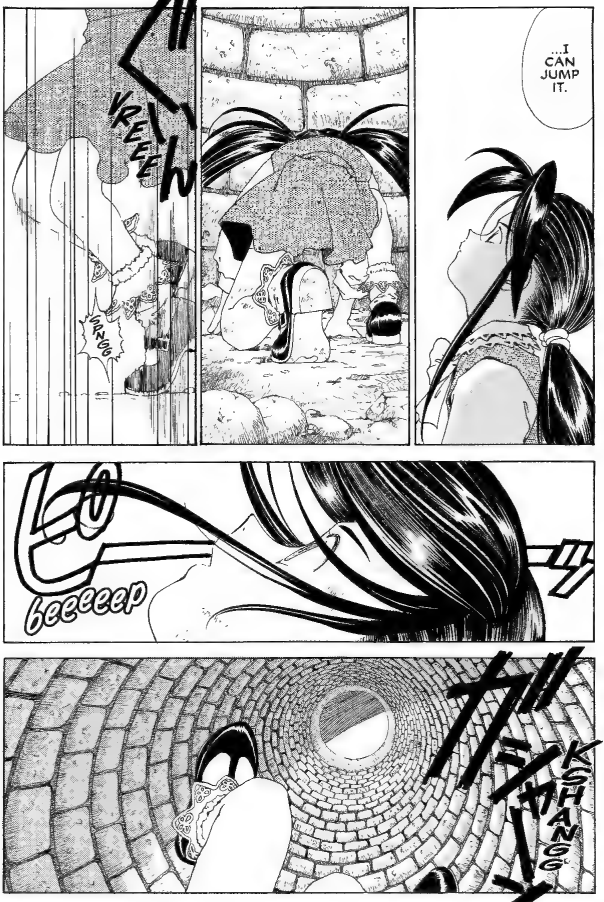
The Mini-Goddess strips are collected in Dark Horse's aptly-named *Oh My Goddess! Adventures of the Mini-Goddesses*, ISBN 1-56971-421-5. Except for this one, which is to be used for promotional purposes only!

CHAPTER 104

Almost My Hero

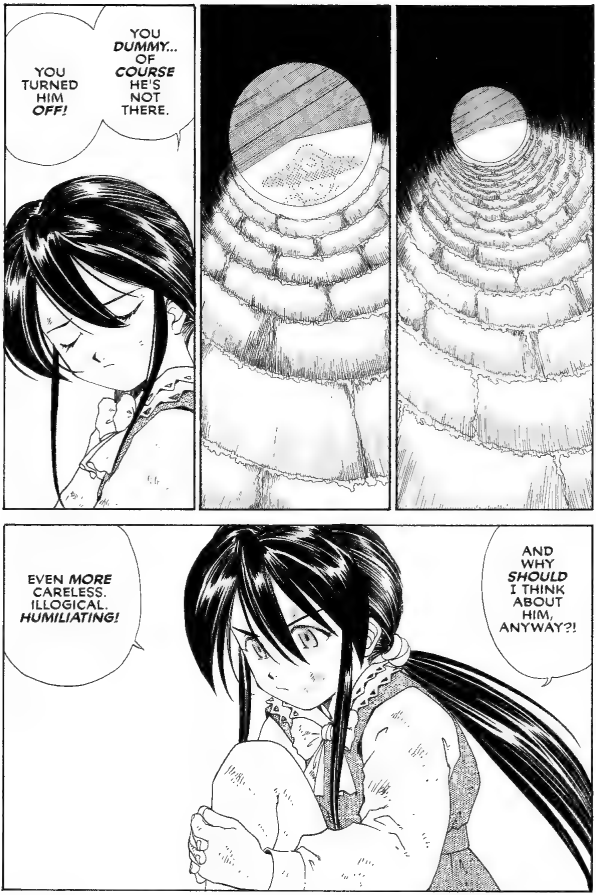
:beep:
:beep:
System check
Memory: Uncorrupted
Balancer: Restored
Gyro spin-up
!
Re-booting OS
ガチャン
KCHAK


...
VERY CARE-LESS.
OKAY... LET'S SEE.
...JUST ABOUT SIXTEEN METERS...
16 36


...I CAN JUMP IT.
KREEEH
UNNNG
beeeeep
KSHANGG

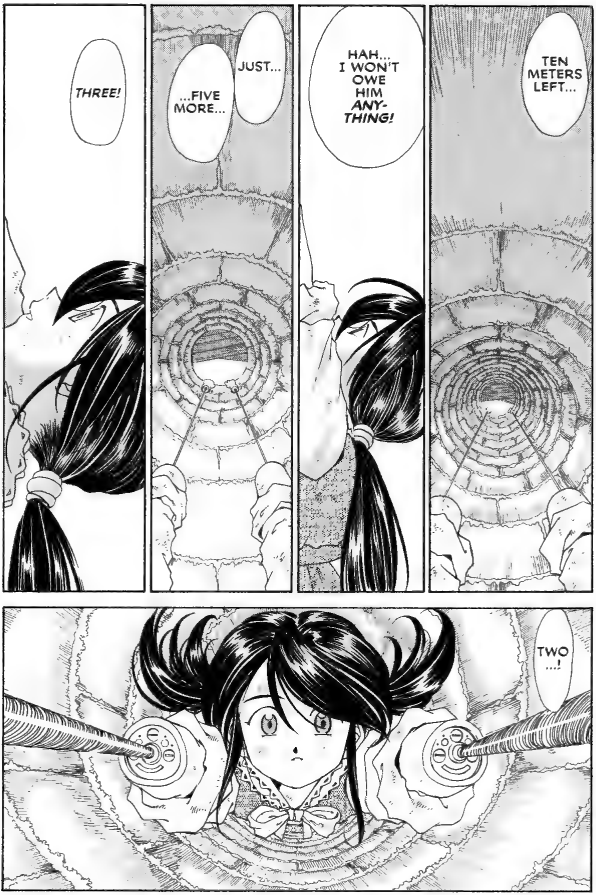
?
KSNSH
beep
beep
beep

...
MUST HAVE BEEN THE FALL...
Auto-off Warning: CLEAR
beep
Power circuit: Auto-off
Broken linkage
beep


YOU TURNED HIM *OFF!*
YOU *DUMMY*... OF *COURSE* HE'S NOT THERE.
EVEN *MORE* CARELESS. ILLOGICAL. *HUMILIATING!*
AND WHY *SHOULD* I THINK ABOUT HIM, ANYWAY?!

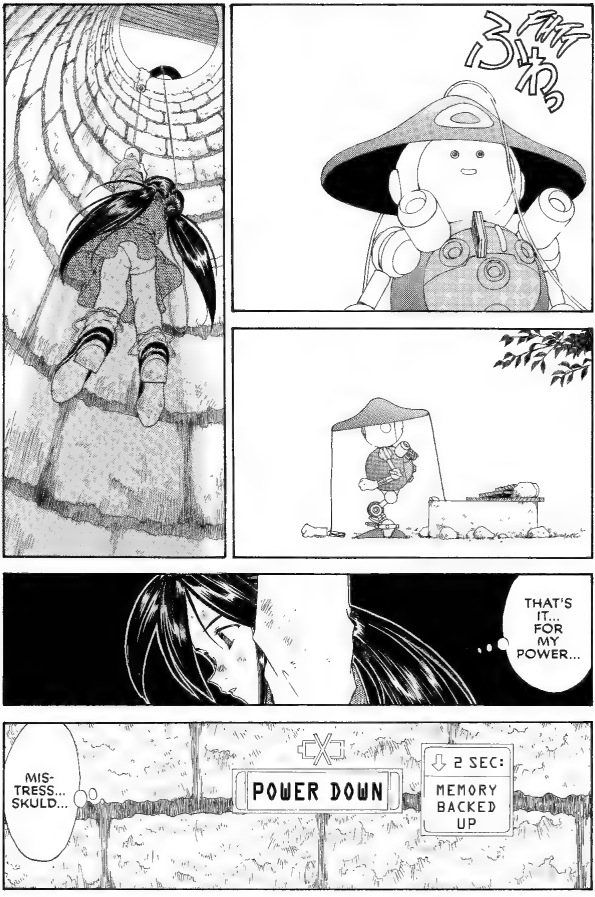
I'LL GET OUT BY MYSELF!
EXECUTE PLAN TWO!
ドン
BSSH
WHOOSH

ガシン
KSHA
ウィーン
KREEE
ギシッ
KREEK
ウィーン
KREEE


TEN METERS LEFT...
HAH... I WON'T OWE HIM ANY-THING!
JUST...
...FIVE MORE...
THREE!
TWO...!

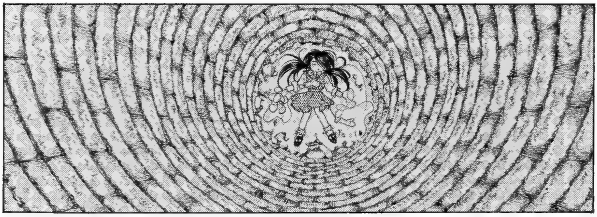
2:54MM
POWER
0.5%
WARNING!
10 SEC:
SLEEP
MODE
I'M GOING TO GO INTO EMERGENCY SHUT-DOWN!
OH, NO!!
PLEASE ...!!
WHUSHAK
VHWPD

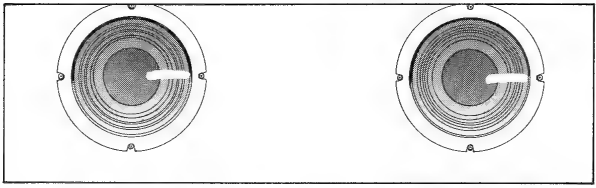
ドー
PSCHH
SOME-
BODY
PLEASE...
NOTICE!
ssHHHH
ドシュウ
FWOOSH
ドスン
FWMP


ふわ
THAT'S IT... FOR MY POWER...
MIS-TRESS... SKULD...
POWER DOWN
2 SEC: MEMORY BACKED UP

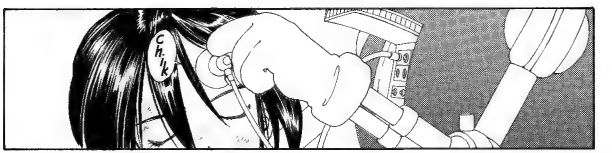
SLEEP MODE
blink
VREEEEEEEEE
WH... WHY? WHY DO I...SEE HIM... N-NOW...
SHING
SHING

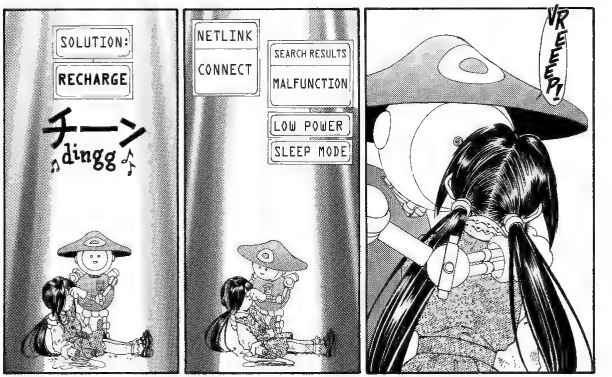
KANGG
ガシッ
GRABBE
グラ
KSHAK
カッシ
YEEEE!
!

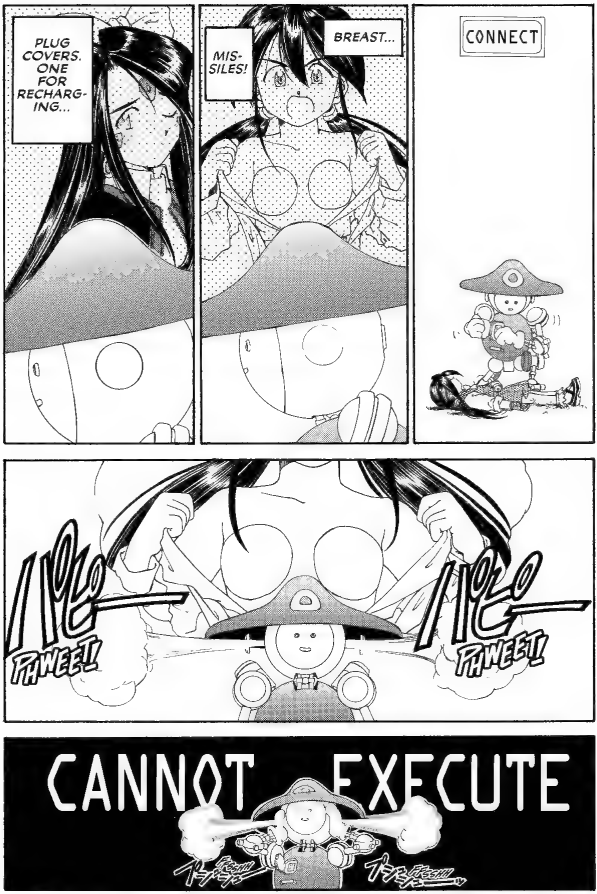


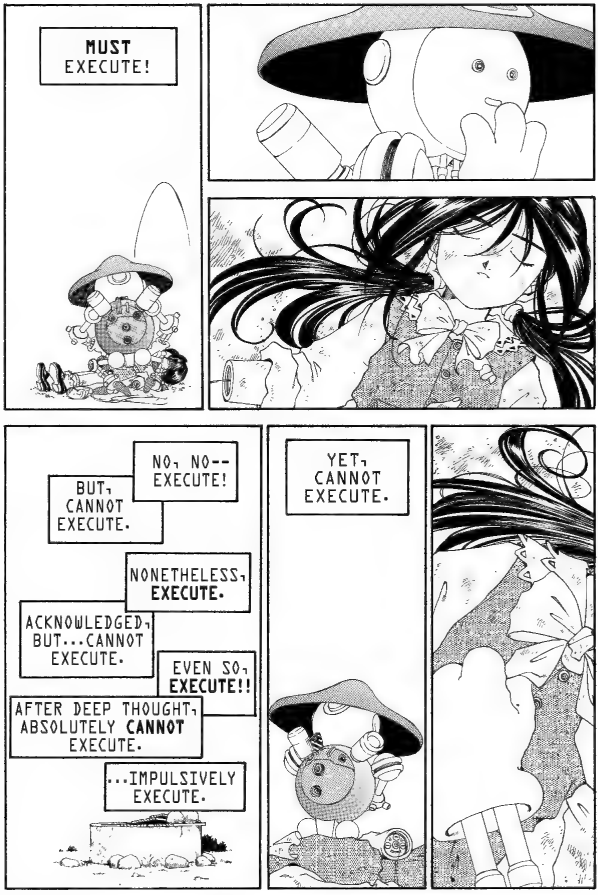


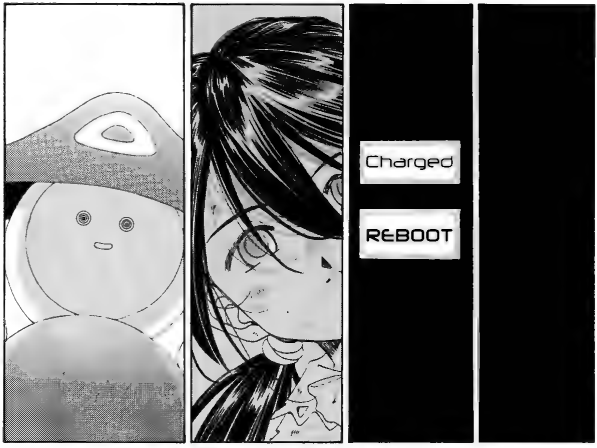
SPLUCH
WHSSH
FWHAM
FWIP


ごん…


SOLUTION:
RECHARGE
チーン
♫ dingg ♪
NETLINK
CONNECT
SEARCH RESULTS
MALFUNCTION
LOW POWER
SLEEP MODE
VREEEP!


PLUG COVERS. ONE FOR RECHARG-ING...
MIS-SILES!
BREAST...
CONNECT
PHWEE!
PHWEE!
CANNOT EXECUTE


MUST EXECUTE!
NO, NO-- EXECUTE!
BUT, CANNOT EXECUTE.
NONETHELESS, EXECUTE.
ACKNOWLEDGED, BUT...CANNOT EXECUTE.
EVEN SO, EXECUTE!!
AFTER DEEP THOUGHT, ABSOLUTELY CANNOT EXECUTE.
...IMPULSIVELY EXECUTE.
YET, CANNOT EXECUTE.

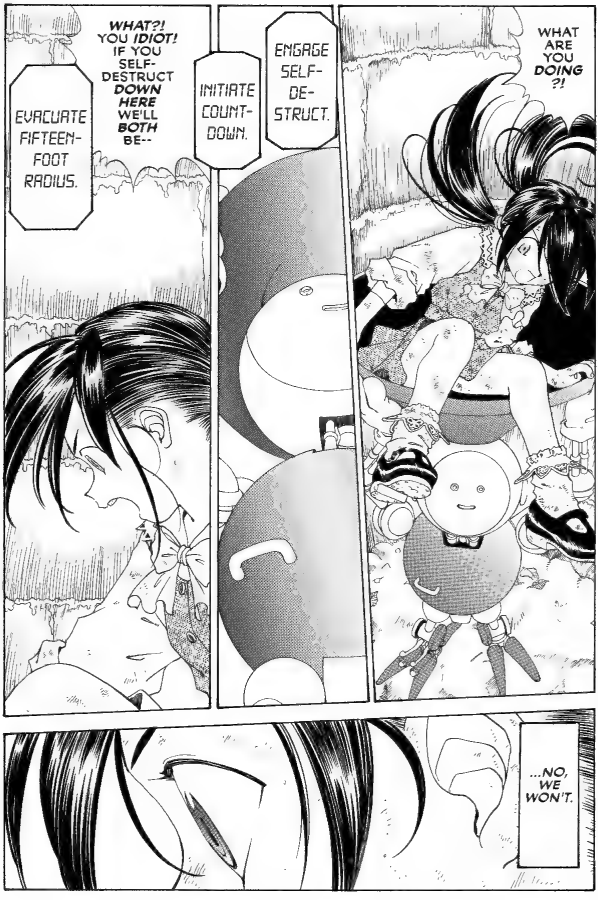

Charged
REBOOT

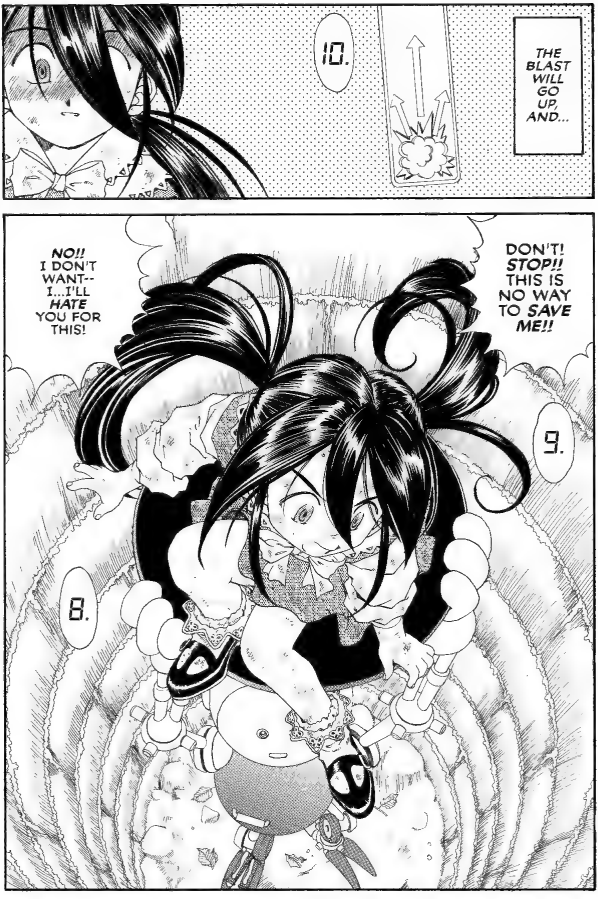
!!
FWB

I'M... ◌o。
...?
...JUST TO HELP ME?
YOU CAME DOWN HERE...
OH ...!
끄끄!
Y- YOU... YOU DAMAGED YOUR-SELF...

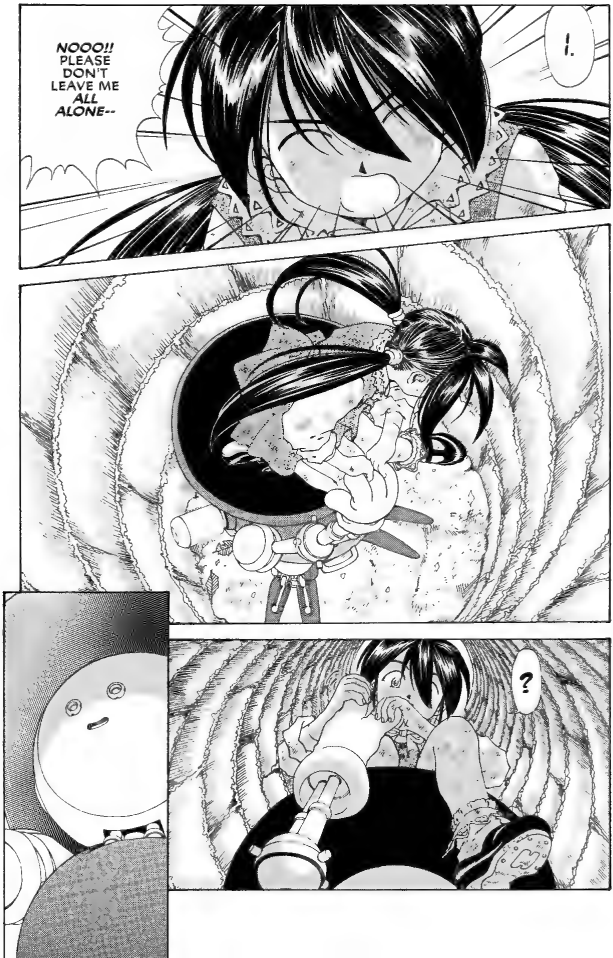
YOU. BIG. *DUMMY!*
...
WHY AM I SO RE-LIEVED TO SEE YOU ...?
BUT... I...I DON'T UNDER-STAND.
WHAT'S THE POINT OF COMING DOWN *HERE?*
YOU COULD HAVE GONE TO GET MISTRESS SKULD!
LOOK WHAT HAPPENED! YOU BROKE YOUR LEG!
NOW HOW ARE WE SUPPOSED TO GET OUT?

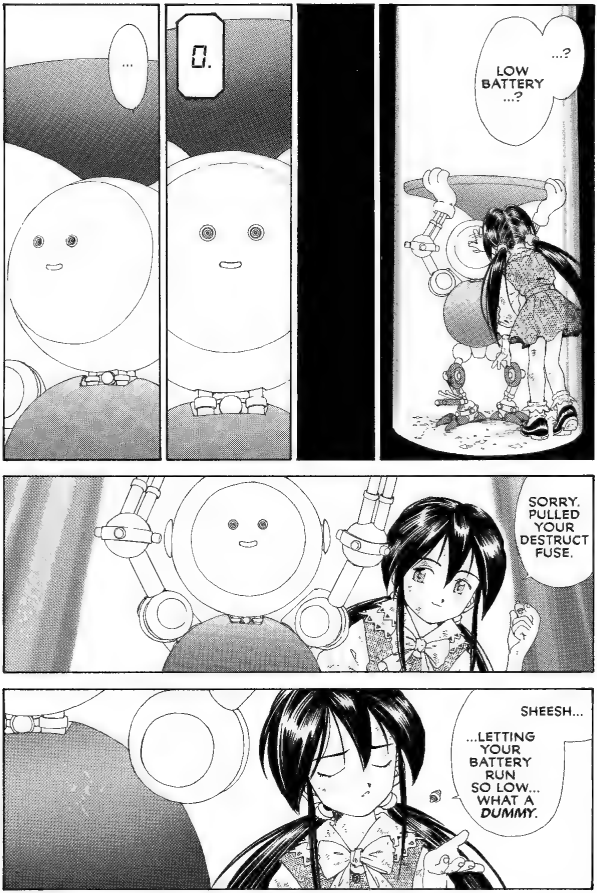
WELL...
WELL...
GET ON?
EH ..?
EEK!
WHIP
くわっ


WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
ENGAGE SELF-DE-STRUCT.
INITIATE COUNT-DOWN.
WHAT?! YOU IDIOT! IF YOU SELF-DESTRUCT DOWN HERE WE'LL BOTH BE--
EVACUATE FIFTEEN-FOOT RADIUS.
...NO, WE WON'T.

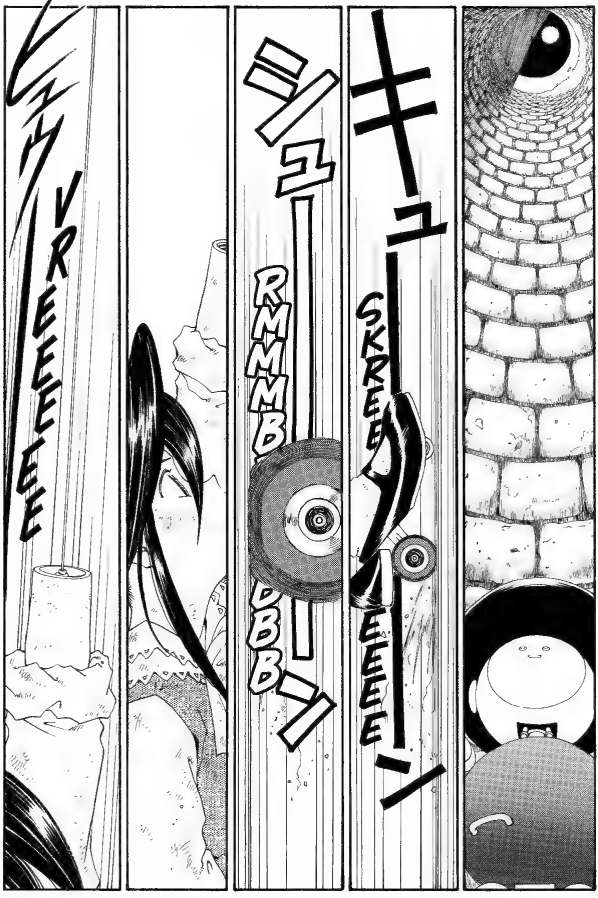

10.
THE BLAST WILL GO UP, AND...
NO!! I DON'T WANT-- I...I'LL HATE YOU FOR THIS!
8.
DON'T! STOP!! THIS IS NO WAY TO SAVE ME!!
9.

5.
MOVE IT-- I'M GETTING DOWN!
4.
FWAP
3.
!?
EEK!! GET YOUR HAND OFF ME, YOU...YOU PERVERT!
2.
WE'LL... WE'LL NEVER TALK AGAIN ...!


NOOO!! PLEASE DON'T LEAVE ME ALL ALONE--
!
?

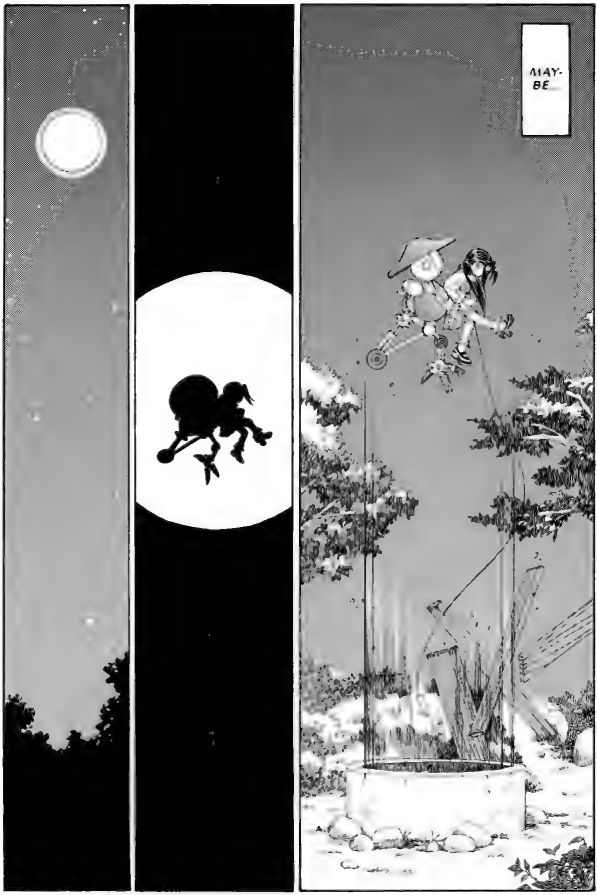

...
0.
...?
LOW BATTERY ...?
SORRY. PULLED YOUR DESTRUCT FUSE.
SHEESH...
...LETTING YOUR BATTERY RUN SO LOW... WHAT A *DUMMY*.

AND NO, I'M NOT GOING TO GIVE THE FUSE BACK.
IF YOU WASTE ANY MORE, YOU'LL RUN OUT FOR SURE.
DIDN'T I TELL YOU TO CUT THAT OUT?!
WE DON'T NEED IT.
IF WE HAVE...
...EACH OTHER.


キュー
SKREEEEEEEN
ミュー
RMMMB
DBB
ヒュウ
VREEEEEEEE

キュウウウン
WHISSSHH

WHY DID I SAY THAT ...?
"DON'T LEAVE ME ALL ALONE!"

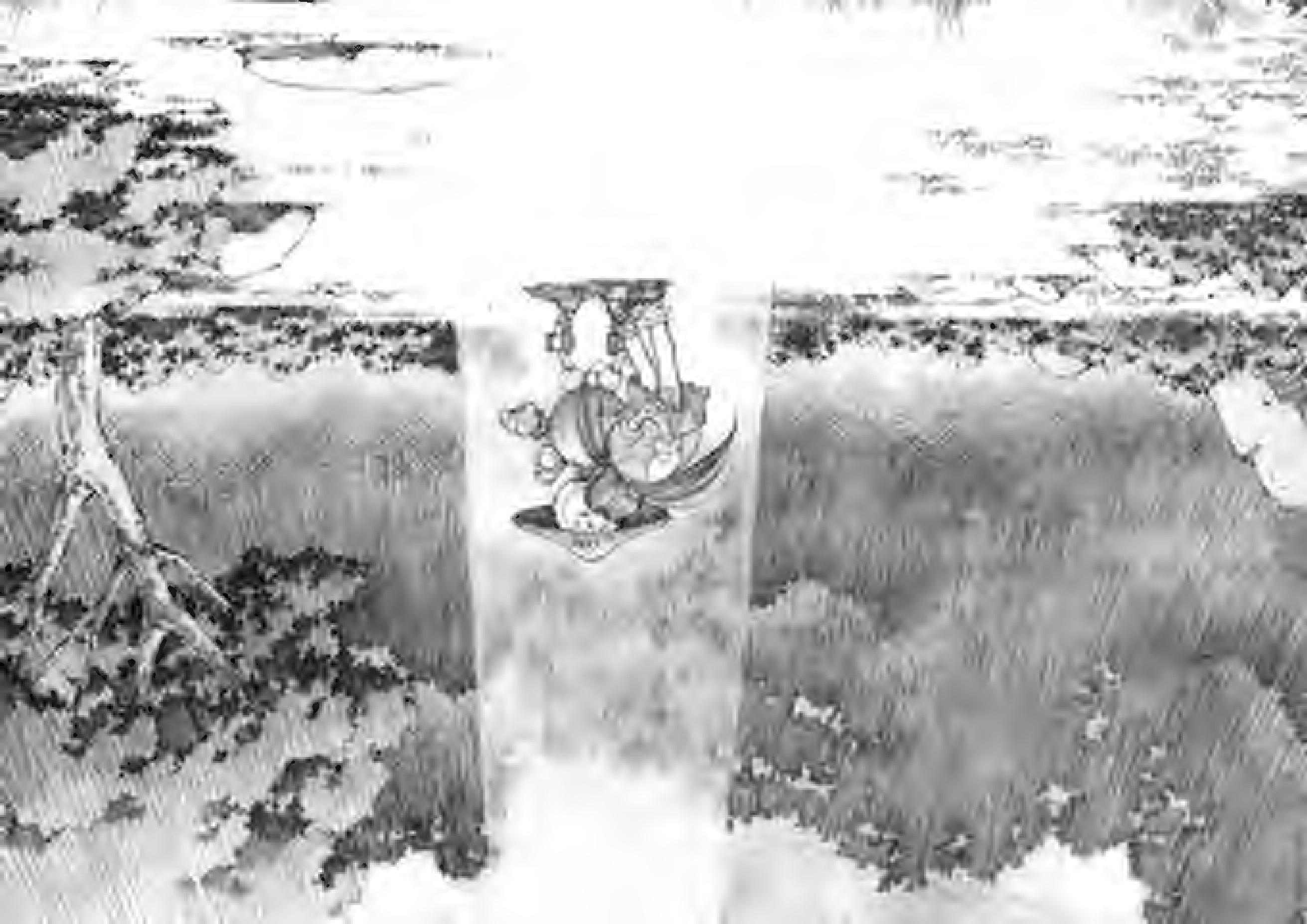

MAY-
BE

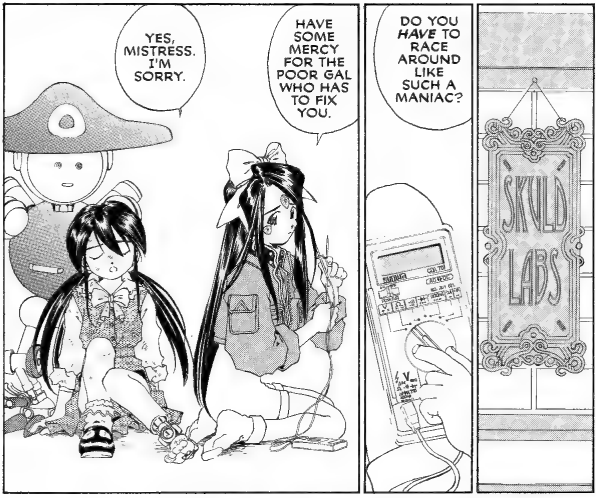
...!
WATCH IT!
SMAK
I'M NOT IN LOVE WITH YOU *YET*.
DON'T GET ANY BIG IDEAS.

WOULD YOU PLEASE ...!
ANYWAY, THE FUTURE IS UP TO YOU.
AND...

I WAS KIND OF... *IMPRESSED.*

THANK YOU FOR WHAT YOU DID.




YES, MISTRESS. I'M SORRY.
HAVE SOME MERCY FOR THE POOR GAL WHO HAS TO FIX YOU.
DO YOU *HAVE* TO RACE AROUND LIKE SUCH A MANIAC?
SKULD LABS

I WON'T *TELL* YOU TO LIKE HIM.
BUT CAN'T YOU AT LEAST *GET ALONG* ...?

IS THAT AN *ORDER* ...?
...

A STRONG *REQUEST!*
...
THEN I HAVE NO CHOICE.
I'LL TRY MY *BEST*, MISTRESS SKULD.
HUH ...?
THAT'S ODD. YOUR BATTERY'S STILL FULL.
DID YOU RE-CHARGE?

...HE DID ...?
WAIT A SEC...
HE RE-CHARGED ME, DOWN IN THE WELL...
NOT YET! IT WAS BANPEI.
...!
BA...
N...
PE...
...!!
くるーリ Spin
!
DON'T YOU DARE! I JUST FIXED HIM!
?
"THE STORMS OF SPRING" ...AGAIN.
GET BACK HERE! I'LL RIP YOUR HYDRAULICS OUT!

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If you are wondering where the usual "Creator Kosuke Fujishima" photo and message is this volume, we regret to say that Fujishima-sensei stopped doing this charming feature in 1998, when vol. 17 first came out. On the other hand, there is a never-before translated *Adventures of the Mini-Goddess* strip this time. And in a way, we're getting much more detail about what was on the creator's (and his readers') minds back in the early days of *Oh My Goddess!* thanks to the vintage *Afternoon* magazine comments now being translated in the "new" volumes of *OMG!* I bet you've been reading them, haven't you? ^_^

I've said it before (like, only two volumes ago ^_^), but of all the manga I've edited, *Oh My Goddess!* seems to receive the most heartfelt letters from people in all walks of life, and I feel this can't be unrelated to the fact *OMG!* is the longest-running manga series in English—sixteen years and counting. And to really bring it all home, here's a letter to its creator from someone who's been reading it all that time.

Dear Mr. Fujishima (c/o Dark Horse),

I'm a 28 year old mother of three, who used to think she was an artist. For the past 16 years, my best friend has been making the trip to the comic book shop to pick up doubles of new *Oh My Goddess!* She reads one and the other is gifted to me. Oh!—what a gift of high measure! These perfect lines, stories, characters, and hard lessons have given me strength to handle my own life, and wings to soar above it and love it wholly. For the past few volumes I've been wanting to express my gratitude to you for all your hard work. *You're Under Arrest!* is deeply touching to me as well. I try to get into the other works and games . . . but honestly all I really have time to fully enjoy is the pure spiritual gem of *OMG!*

As it turns out, I can depend on *OMG!* when I need inspiration. I have your books so I can check for reference when I wonder "what would Belldandy do in a situation like this?" I try to find the connection you have made with her and tap into it for those situations that Belldandy would never find herself in, but I do—like a family fight. This world right now is at a peak of craziness, and as I practice becoming a spiritual being, it's great for me to have that piece of fantasy made real by you, to hold on to. Not only that, but you have been my favorite artist for almost 20 years. I understand you and have found a nourishing connection with your work.

Art is a bruised, painful topic for me. Ever since I can remember, and possibly in my past lives too, I've had art in me that wants to get out. It has piled up inside me over the years . . . and I feel

if only I had the discipline to work on it tirelessly even when my kids blessed me with their presence, I might have something to show . . . as it is, I've had a powerful manga in my head for at least a decade, and I fear I must let it go into the ether, lest it be that someone younger comes along and does it better and faster. I fear I have to put art away altogether and change my love for it into something new and mysterious. Maybe there's a tool I'm missing . . . I want my message to be heard/seen somehow . . . I think it's a very important one.

I wish I could fly to where you are, fall prostrate before you and beg for your mentorship. One day, I think I will. But that is an overly ambitious dream.

I lack motivation and my eye for inspiration, until I read your books. For the past few English book releases, I have attempted to draw something to send to you but it wasn't coming out right. The last one, I read last night—where Skuld has just realized the future means to have no fear, knows she has torrential power but desperately needs to gain control. I'm with her in that respect. I can feel my own power . . . but I don't know what it's for and I need to hone it. It brings me great ambition but I am not balanced in knowing what I must do, so I'm a reckless tempest right now.

"What would Belldandy do?" Well, I imagine she might tell me to slow down and look at what I have in my hands right now . . . to just love it and let it blossom into whatever it wants to be. This thing is not a really cool piece of art, or a perfect character design . . . it is my children . . . and they are both these things and more. I know from my meditative practice that I must slow down. Slow down in so many aspects. Your *OMG!* books follow a tempo that I should follow . . . so maybe I won't race into so many walls, and enjoy my journey as it unfolds. It brings me back to where my soul is supposed to be.

Last night, I let my kids destroy whatever they wanted to as I delved deeply into this illustration. We all got to sleep around 5 AM! This illustration I title "*Oh My Goddess!* in Real Time," featuring how the books might have went if they followed in the same pace as my life: babies everywhere. So many you better not think of handling them all yourself! Belldandy would have to pull back her bangs and lose a lot of that dangly jewelry. I imagine a family blessing would have to be custom-made for a group such as this. It's not perfect . . . in fact I'm only partly pleased with it . . . but honestly I think this is how it's supposed to be.

Mr. Fujishima, thank you for all you have done. Thank you for being insightful. Thank you for hearing the voice of heaven. Thank you for all you have sacrificed for the art and the books. You have truly done holy work. I will slow down, forget grumpiness, and see what my true path turns out to be…and thank all the people in your life for me!

True, deep love forever,
Valerie Peters

Ms. Peters' "*Oh My Goddess!* In Real Time" is on the next page. Thank you so much for sending us this wonderful letter and fan art, and don't worry, Fujishima-sensei receives copies of every volume of the English edition. Being a parent is the most important job in the world, but I'm sure Keiichi and Belldandy are up to it. That would be a nice way to end the series. Hmm . . . speaking of parents, we've haven't seen Belldandy and Skuld's mother yet, have we . . . ?

—CGH

STOP! This is the back of the book!

This manga collection is translated into English, but arranged in right-to-left reading format to maintain the artwork's visual orientation as originally drawn and published in Japan. If you've never read comics this way before, take a look at the diagram below to give yourself an idea of how to go about it. Basically, you'll be starting in the upper right-hand corner, and will read each word balloon and panel moving right to left. It may take a little getting used to, but you should get the hang of it very quickly. Have fun! If this is the millionth manga you've read this way, never mind. ^_^

COMICS & GRAPHIC NOVELS/MANGA/GENERAL

Oh My Goddess!

ああっ女神さまっ 17

PEORTH RETURNS TO EARTH

to try and reverse the slowdown of universal time at its source—the demon boy whose mysterious obsession with a goddess is literally bringing the world to a halt! What is the secret of his link with Belldandy—a link Belldandy is not allowed to remember? Then, back in real time, Skuld has accepted that Banpei is in love with the Welcome Robot—but an upgrade shows that doesn't mean the Welcome Robot has accepted it!

Winner of the 33rd Kodansha Manga Award, Oh My Goddess! is the longest-running manga title in English!

DARK HORSE MANGA
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